



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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U.S. Action Shows Return to 'Bias Toward Israel'

PM1103150994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Rafiq al-Ma'luf, Raghidah Dirgham, 'Ali Nun, and Jalal al-Mashtah: "Washington Tells PLO To Negotiate Unconditionally"]

[Excerpts] Washington, New York, London, Moscow—Over the past 48 hours the United States has escalated its position, preventing the Security Council voting on a resolution on the Hebron massacre, on the pretext of a disagreement over one word in the draft resolution. Also, Secretary of State Warren Christopher requested President Yasir 'Arafat to resume the negotiations with Israel "without prior conditions." While Moscow announced that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit the region today.

Responding to this, a high-ranking Palestinian source contacted by AL-HAYAH accused Ambassador Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, and the official in charge of the Middle East at the National Security Council "of returning to complete bias toward Israel and exploiting President Clinton's preoccupation with domestic matters to take control of U.S. foreign policy." [passage omitted]

A PLO official, who asked to remain anonymous, pointed out that Christopher had phoned President 'Arafat and demanded that the PLO resume the negotiations without any prior conditions or agree to hold meetings between Palestinian and Israeli officials.

The official said: "It is clear that the U.S. Administration is exerting pressure (on the PLO) in Israel's favor through its threat to use the veto." [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid on Israeli Settlements, Protection

NC1203073294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2243 GMT
11 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isma' 'Abd-al-Majid has described the massacre of al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron as the worst incident in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He noted that there had been massacres such as those of Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, Sabra, and Shatila in the past, but there was no peace process then like the process that began in Madrid in October 1990, nor were there peace negotiations.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly UKTUBAR to be published Sunday [13 March], he said that UN resolutions stipulate frankly that the settlements are illegal and that they form an obstacle to peace. He added that the settlements are not only an impediment to peace but they now pose a problem for Israel itself and that Israel now does not know what to do with the settlers.

He pointed out that protection of the Palestinians has become the issue of the hour and that a solution must be found to this before the peace process resumes.

He expressed hopes that the Arabs will get a permanent seat at the Security Council, but he remarked that there must be some contacts for this.

He said that the issue of voting on the Arab League resolutions will be discussed at the League Council's meeting due to be held at the foreign minister level at the end of this month. The (?charter) needs (?to be amended) so that resolutions can be passed by a majority of two-thirds instead of the current system which depends on [words indistinct].

He added that he will ask the Arab countries at the next meeting to set up an Arab court of justice as stipulated in Article [word indistinct] of the Arab League Charter of 1945.

League Chief on Challenges Posed by GATT

NC1303073694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Mar 94
p 6

[By Zakariya Nil]

[Excerpts] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isma' 'Abd-al-Majid has urged the Arab countries to let the Arab League start immediately to prepare to confront the challenges posed for them by the major economic blocs, foremost of which are the free trade agreement "GATT" and the so-called Middle East market.

He also called on the Arabs to set up an Arab Free Trade Area (AFTA) similar to the U.S.-Canadian-Mexican one (NAFTA), the other economic blocs (GATT), and the Asian bloc.

He stressed that peace is not a gift or a present given by Israel to the Arabs, but rather the opposite, adding that the Arab boycott of Israel will continue as long as the latter continues to occupy Arab territories. He noted that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has given more hope than contained in its clauses.

These remarks were made during Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's dialogue at a seminar held by the al-Jizah Rotary Club with businessmen and intellectuals who are Rotarians.

In a reply to a question, the Arab League secretary general said: What we should focus on now is the global economic struggle going on around us. Globalism might be a source of hope for some, but it is a source of anxiety for others. Today's world is one of major economic blocs or groupings in which there is no place for individual countries. Our Arab world cannot live on the margin. [passage omitted]

In reply to another question, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The application of the GATT agreement's clauses will result in the liberalization of international trade in many commodities and services; it will lead to the elimination

of subsidies for agricultural exports and for farmers and the elimination of the textiles agreement so that it will become part of GATT in 10 years. This is in addition to all the other GATT clauses.

Responding to another question, the Arab League secretary general said: It is evident from the above that Arab agricultural products will suffer too much due to the high cost of Arab agricultural production when compared with imports from countries that enjoy a very high level of economic efficiency, particularly as the Arab countries import more than 60 percent of their food requirements. This is bound to affect the Arab countries' exports due to the factors of quality and competition. It is also bound to subject the Arab markets to an intensive invasion by competing products, especially when conditions for preventing commodity subsidies are imposed. The same will apply to the services trade and government purchases sectors. In return, the Arab countries will benefit from the liberalization of the building equipment, agricultural machinery, and medical equipment trade.

If we look at the list of countries that will annually benefit from GATT, we will notice that the European Union [EU] will be the first beneficiary, followed by North America, China, the Asian countries, and Japan. The last group to benefit from GATT will be the Gulf countries (their share of international trade will be \$3.1 billion compared to the \$80.7 billion that the EU will attain).

Thus, this agreement imposes on us as many challenges as benefits. This requires us to start preparing for it starting right now throughout the years of grace, some lasting up to 10 years, allowed by GATT to the developing countries so that they can reorganize their economic infrastructures in line with the requirements of the new phase of global economy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say: I personally heard about the so-called Middle East market in 1988 from a senior Israeli official, who added to it a new Marshall plan for the Middle East where Israel would be one of the principal links. The call for this market intensified following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles on 13 September 1993. The region is being prepared for the post-peace-talks era and the envisioned future; and the future relations between its countries are being prepared for. We are facing a new epoch in the history of the region that requires a radical and comprehensive change in line with efforts for achieving a comprehensive and just settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this context, Israel is aiming to establish the so-called Middle East market and this makes us ask: Where do we stand in all this? How do we prepare for dealing with it?

Israel's objectives depend on Arab acceptance, because Israel cannot impose its objectives on the Arab world regardless of the form this market takes. If such a market

is set up, our dealings with it will proceed from certain facts, which I summarize as the following:

- The Arabs are a huge force with a variety of resources and potentials. They are widespread and have many markets—something that guarantees their ability to set up a huge economic grouping capable of securing the unity of the Arab region and preserving its identity, apart from its ability to affect things rather than be affected.
- There is nothing that frightens this huge force, because Israel is no more than a small area restricted by limited resources in the midst of a vast Arab ocean that has great potentials and resources. Israel will not have any distinctive economic advantage, but one can deal with it in accordance with specific standards and measures, which each Arab country will set according to its own national interests and within the framework of its full sovereignty over its territory and national resources.
- The Arabs need to formulate a comprehensive strategic concept specifying higher Arab interests and a united Arab stand regarding the challenges of peace, regional cooperation, and its limits.
- Efforts toward Arab reconciliation should continue preparing to mobilize Arab integration efforts. The latter will be turned into a pillar of Arab potential when confronting the coming challenges.

Answering a question, the secretary general said that the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles provided great hope, much greater than what was actually written into the text. (We do not have time to discuss this agreement or analyze its articles). But evidence shows that the road to the expected peace gave Israel the impression and feeling that the Arab world's market, which contains over 150 million consumers, could compensate for what it might have to relinquish regionally or diplomatically. The greatest compensation for the shattering of Israel's dream of becoming Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates has been the alternative dream of becoming the economic superpower that can invade the Arab markets as it pleases. It believes that it has an economic advantage that enables it to invade Arab markets, since the net domestic product per capita in Israel is seven times greater than that on the West Bank and 14 times that in the Gaza Strip. The net national product per capita in Israel amounts to nearly \$11,000, whereas in the West Bank it amounts to \$2,000 and in the Gaza Strip, \$1,300.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: This is the way Israel looks at the other Arab countries when contemplating the peace. I believe it is useful to keep in mind on this occasion that peace with Egypt did not allow Israel to enter the Arab world. This was because Egypt was greatly concerned about not establishing relations with Israel at the expense of its relations with the Arab world. This leads me reiterate my earlier statement that peace is not a gift or present from Israel to the Arabs. In fact, the contrary is

true; Israel is the one that desperately needs peace and cooperation, which will not be realized except through its comprehensive and full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Answering a question, the secretary general affirmed that the Israeli boycott will continue as long as Israel occupies any part of Arab territory.

He added that the peace process, which the Arab League supports in accordance with international resolutions, still has many obstacles and difficulties to overcome, and this is only to be expected. However, insistence on attaining the objective and preserving cohesion are two basic issues for realizing the desired goals.

The secretary general called on the Arabs to seriously consider establishing an Arab Free Trade Area (AFTA), along the lines of NAFTA and the rest of the big economic groupings. He said: I believe that the time periods provided by the GATT treaty allow us to set up this area with the objective of determining the best ways to market our Arab products in view of the international competition that is characteristic of the 21st century.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Mar

NC1103181094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 8 March issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Protest Rallies
2. Demonstrations
3. Call to Jihad
4. Attitudes Toward Israel
5. Government Policy and Establishment Media
6. Church and State
7. Cultural Conflict
8. Regime's Downfall Predicted

PROTEST RALLIES

AL-SHA'B's 8 March issue continues the paper's broad coverage of domestic reaction to the al-Ibrahimi massacre, devoting pages 2-5 to accounts of demonstrations and rallies protesting the Hebron shooting and citing speeches by Socialist Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, the party's Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy General Guide Ahmad al-Malat, and lesser figures, all castigating the government's policies and Israeli and U.S. "hegemony" plans. This issue carries a special banner in the upper left-hand corner reading: "A special edition on the Egyptian people's intifadah." The major headline is: "The Revolution of the Mosques." Several stories and comments deal with the confrontation between police and demonstrators at al-Azhar on 4 March.

On page 2 an approximately 3,000-word account of two SLP rallies in al-Fashn and al-Basatin townships reports party leader Ibrahim Shukri's remarks that the Interior Ministry tried to ban student demonstrations at the country's top universities and refused to allow an SLP-organized march from al-Azhar to the mufti's office that would have included major personalities following Friday prayers on 4 March. Shukri says: "Let the Egyptian authorities know that marches were organized in Britain, India, and most of the world's capitals to protest the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The marchers were not harmed but in Egypt they were beaten up in al-Tahrir Square, their wounds bled, and they were suffocated by police tear gas grenades, simply because they dared to show their anger against the criminal Zionist murderers."

Shukri criticizes the restrictions on opposition press, police violence, and rigged elections but tells his audience that "the wheel has started to turn and God's victory will come, even after a long night."

A 600-word report on page 6 is about a conference held inside al-Azhar Mosque by the leaders of several opposition groups, the SLP, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Nasirists, and the Liberal Party. The meeting was held to coincide with popular demonstrations outside the compound. The conferees urged the PLO to reject surrender and withdraw from the "so-called peace" conferences. They also urged the Egyptian and other Arab governments to release political detainees.

DEMONSTRATIONS

A 300-word report on page 2 describes the 4 March Friday prayers at al-Istikamah Mosque in al-Jizah Square in Cairo, cites the prayer imam's remarks on Jewish treachery, and slogan shouting by the worshipers. The report says security forces surrounded the area to forestall any planned march on the Israeli Embassy. A report on page 3 describes similar protests following Friday prayers in Alexandria and police measures to prevent demonstrations.

A 500-word report on page 3 describes the security forces' confrontation with worshipers who marched out of al-Azhar Mosque after Friday prayers to protest the Hebron shooting. The mosque was surrounded and tear gas was used to disperse the demonstrators.

Other accounts of protests against the al-Ibrahimi incident include a clash between police and demonstrators following Friday prayers outside Mustafa Mahmud Mosque in Cairo's al-Muhandisin quarter, marches by factory workers and students in Hulwan, and reports on prayers said for the souls of the victims of the Hebron incident in various parts of the country.

The paper carries on page 1 a six-column by 7-inch photograph showing police cars and security personnel against a backdrop of an al-Azhar building. The photo has the following caption: "Al-Azhar Square turns into a battleground." The rest of the page is almost entirely

taken up by seven other smaller photographs depicting security measures around al-Azhar and worshipers marching and raising Koran copies in their hands. One picture shows "security forces arresting Labor Party member Muhammad Ibrahim." The only text on the page is part of the chief editor's article.

CALL TO JIHAD

A 1,500-word account of a professional associations conference in Cairo cites a speech by SLP [referred to here as the Islamic Labor Party] Secretary General 'Adil Husayn who says Ramadan this year has turned into a month of martyrdom in addition to fasting and worship. He appeals to Egyptian police officers not to confront young demonstrators with bullets because he views the Egyptian police as too worthy to be equated with the Israelis. He declares: "We have not met here to weep for there is no time for weeping. Indeed, it is almost a sin to weep. It is the time of anger and preparation for revenge."

Speaking at the same conference, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy General Guide Ahmad al-Malat chastises the government for doing nothing about the Hebron shooting and asks: "Have they been struck dumb? Has Clinton not given them permission yet?"

Al-Malat says: "Young people, you are the remaining hope. You are the resource. Work should begin today, not tomorrow. It is the hope to rescue Palestine... by jihad. Jihad is the only way. Every young man among you must prepare himself for the day when he will answer the call to jihad."

ATTITUDES TOWARD ISRAEL

On page 5 there is a 2,000-word report on a conference organized by faculty members from various Egyptian universities during which academics expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, backed the Palestinian demand for the removal of the Israeli settlements, and urged the immediate severance of diplomatic ties with Israel.

Mustafa Bakri, in a 700-word article on page 5 carrying the headline "The Volcano of Anger," says the conflict with Israel is one of existence, not a mere border dispute, and the whole of Palestine must be regained. Noting that the regime is incapable of confronting Israel, he says the hope lies with the people, especially the young.

Islamic preacher and writer Muhammad al-Ghazali, in his Tuesday column "This Is Our Religion," says the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre comes as no surprise because Jews are brought up in the religious tradition of waging "a war of extermination against their enemies."

GOVERNMENT POLICY AND ESTABLISHMENT MEDIA

Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn in a 1,500-word article on pages 1 and 9 speaks of the eruption of public anger against Israel and the Egyptian Government which

cooperates, normalizes ties, and advocates "hot peace" with it. After referring to the protests of 4 March at al-Azhar and the concurrent meeting of opposition leaders there, he contrasts the government's failure to respond to the Hebron massacre with its success at putting down domestic unrest and protests. He declares that no good can come from a government riddled with financial corruption and whose inability to remedy the country's problems is rivalled only by its success in clinging to power against the public wish. He urges all patriotic forces to unite in order to force the government to listen to the opposition's views and calls for pursuing the difficult road of democracy until the time comes when the people can choose their own rulers.

A 1,500-word article by Muhammad Hilal on page 4 takes Egyptian television to task for carrying less coverage on the Hebron massacre than Israeli television and continuing to show its quiz shows, boring serials, and "rotten" films. He notes that Egyptian television took care not to cover the 4-March Friday prayers from al-Azhar Mosque because its officials realized it was going to be the scene of protests and instead relayed prayers from another Cairo mosque.

SLP deputy leader Muhammad Hilmi Murad, writing about the country's "popular awakening" in an article on page 7, calls on the government to take people's wishes into account and urges opposition parties, professional associations, and labor parties to advocate and defend popular causes.

CHURCH AND STATE

Muslim Brotherhood columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus addresses his thanks to university students across the country for refuting the initial foreign news agencies' description of the popular Egyptian reaction to the Hebron massacre as "lukewarm and feeble." In his back-page column on page 12, he also refers to the massive protests by professional associations and worshipers and notes that these demonstrations reassured him that Arabhood and Islam still flow in the country's veins. He says: "Frankly, I feared for my country from the advocates of pharaonism and isolation and the haters who demand separation of religion and state." Adding that such people control state media and education, he notes that he had been worrying that they would "brainwash" the people into believing that they were solely Egyptian, unconcerned with events in the Arab and Islamic world.

CULTURAL CONFLICT

An approximately 3,000-word article on page 12, by Mahjub 'Umar, analyzes the cultural conflict between the Arabs and Israel, which cannot be ended by interim agreements but will continue until the "racist aggressor agrees to restore rights and to live in equality under the aegis of the region's prevailing, Arab-Islamic culture." He says that the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was a microcosm of this cultural conflict and that the attacker,

Baruch Goldstein, was a product of his culture and cannot be called insane unless all members of his community are called insane too. Noting that Israel itself is the original, large settlement, he foresees the day when the world will accept its disarmament.

Muslim Brotherhood official and columnist Mustafa Mashhur refers, in a 1,500-word article on page 7, to the long-standing but unsuccessful attempts by Egypt's enemies to dilute its Islamic character, including attempts by French and British occupiers to introduce foreign laws into the country, by proselytizing, and the propagation of dissolute Western culture.

He says that after Hasan al-Banna founded the Muslim Brotherhood in 1928 with the aim of reviving the Muslim state following the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire, there came the secularist onslaught against al-Azhar and against Islamic laws and courts, the shackling of Egypt by the Camp David Accord, and the attempt to forge normal ties between "Egypt's Muslim people and the Zionist enemy who usurps Palestine." He declares that all these attempts have failed and young men and women are embracing religion, filling mosques to capacity, and wearing Islamic attire voluntarily. He adds that their support for the Palestinian cause remains strong.

REGIME'S DOWNFALL PREDICTED

A 750-word article by Dr. Rifat Sayyid Ahmad on page 4 accuses the government of idiocy, hatred for the public, and love for Israel and the Kach movement. In the article, entitled "An Eyewitness to the Regime's Crime," the writer views the security forces' use of tear gas against al-Azhar as a sign of the regime's imminent demise.

Palestinian Affairs

Kozyrev Says 'Arafat Ready To Resume Talks

LD1203095894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left Tunis yesterday evening after a short visit during which he held talks with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia at Tunis Carthage international airport on the peace process, the current situation in the Middle East region, and Tunisian-Russian relations.

Kozyrev had earlier held talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat with regard to giving a boost to the Middle East peace process. This was also the chief topic of a meeting between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and President 'Arafat.

The Palestinian president held a dinner banquet in honor of the Russian foreign minister, to which Foreign Minister Ben Yahia was invited. After the dinner talks were held between the Palestinian and Russian delegations. Mr. Ben Yahia also attended the discussions.

After the two-hour working session with President 'Arafat and his aides, which was attended by Mr. Ben Yahia, the Russian foreign minister announced in Tunis that the PLO chairman is ready to resume the negotiations with Israel. He told journalists, in President 'Arafat's presence, that he was very pleased to announce that President 'Arafat had made a most important and brave political decision by promising to resume the negotiations and continue the peace process.

President 'Arafat, who avoided talking about the resumption of negotiations with Israel, confined himself to saying that he remains committed to the peace process despite the tragedy and the massacre.

The Russian foreign minister stressed the brave character of President 'Arafat's decision and pointed out his great contribution to establishing an era of comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. He added that he had given President 'Arafat an invitation from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to visit Moscow, without specifying a date.

President 'Arafat declared that the Palestinian leadership is expecting guarantees from the peace co-sponsors—that is, the United States and Russia—for the protection of the Palestinian people and their holy places. He said also that it is expecting Israel to carry out confidence-building measures for the continuation of the peace process.

The Russian foreign minister stated that what is required is to work first and specifically for reaching an agreement on Gaza and Jericho as soon as possible. He stressed that his country will work with all determination for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September between the PLO and Israel. He then emphasized that the United States and Russia had pledged, in their capacity as co-sponsors of the peace process, to watch over the full implementation of the resolution which will be adopted by the UN Security Council on the Hebron massacre. He also said that he will hold specific and serious talks with his U.S. counterpart at their meeting on Monday, regarding the elements of the resumption of peace and on the guarantees that the peace co-sponsors must provide in order to guarantee continuous progress for these negotiations.

On his arrival in Tunis for a brief visit, the Russian foreign minister said that Tunisia's role is essential within the framework of the efforts for the resumption of the Middle East peace process. He said that he had come to meet Foreign Minister Ben Yahia and President 'Arafat; he wished, he said, to express to President 'Arafat Russia's support for his brave leadership, his efforts to establish peace in the region, and his determination to prevent the enemies of peace from impeding its course. He added that he would hold thoroughgoing talks with President 'Arafat on the current situation in the region and ways to push forward the peace process.

Asked whether he had any proposals, he said: We have some ideas but we rely on the wisdom of President

'Arafat and his aides for progressing along the course of peace. He then pointed out that he had an important message from President Boris Yeltsin to President 'Arafat.

With regard to the Russian proposal concerning a call for a new international peace conference on the Middle East, Mr. Kozyrev said that that proposal remains open and what is certain now is the need to focus on seeking the means to rescue the peace process.

'Arafat Accepts Yeltsin's Invitation To Visit

NC1303223094 Paris AFP in English 2212 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Tunis, March 13 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Moscow on April 19 at the invitation of President Boris Yeltsin, officials said here Sunday [13 March].

Replying to a message from the Russian leader, 'Arafat said he accepted Yeltsin's invitation for "detailed" discussions on bilateral ties and Russia's contribution to implementing Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa quoted 'Arafat as saying he was confident that Russia, a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process with the United States, would continue to work for implementation of the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal "in the time scale set by the accord", signed in Washington last September.

Yeltsin's message was conveyed to 'Arafat on Friday by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

'Arafat praised Yeltsin's "interest" in getting the peace talks back on track, and the Russian Government's moves to get a UN Security Council resolution adopted "which responds effectively to Palestinian demands." [passage omitted]

'Arafat thanked the Russian Government for its "important" efforts aimed at "preventing an escalation of violence in the occupied territories," and said he was "very satisfied with the friendly and sincere" PLO-Russian dialogue.

Besides Kozyrev, two Russian special envoys have visited PLO headquarters in Tunis in the past two weeks in a Russian diplomatic offensive to revive the peace talks.

The US State Department's Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, will hold talks with 'Arafat in Tunis on Monday and travel to Israel on Tuesday.

'Arafat aide Bassam Abu-Sharif said the Ross-Arafat meeting would also be attended by a Russian envoy.

'Arafat Receives Yeltsin Envoy Posuvalyuk

LD1403142494 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] In view of the Russian efforts to effect a resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, a meeting took place yesterday evening in Tunis between the Palestinian president and Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's envoy to the Middle East.

This meeting, the third of its kind within the span of three days, falls within the Palestinian-Israeli [as heard] contacts about the situation in the Middle East. The Russian envoy delivered a message, described as important, from the Russian leadership to President 'Arafat.

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to Egypt's Musa

NC1203133794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received an urgent message today from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, conveyed the message to Musa.

Speaking after the meeting, Kamal said that the message deals with the results of the talks held between president 'Arafat and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Tunis yesterday. In his message, the Palestinian leader stressed the need for the Palestinians in the occupied territories to obtain guarantees, particularly from the cosponsors of the peace conference, securing their safety and protection.

Ambassador Kamal added that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace talks, will arrive in Tunis on Tuesday to hold talks with the Palestinian leadership to give impetus to the peace process and overcome the difficulties facing it.

U.S. Coordinator's Visit to Tunis Said Postponed

NC1203185494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 12 Mar (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that Washington has postponed for a few days the visit to Tunis by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, to meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The visit was scheduled for today to discuss the results of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Tunis and his meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night.

The visit has been postponed despite the PLO's approval for receiving Ross today in accordance with a proposal by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his message to 'Arafat yesterday. Under the proposal, Ross was scheduled to visit Tunis and Israel today and tomorrow as part of the ongoing efforts to bring the PLO back to the peace talks.

The same sources pointed out that perhaps Washington is worried about Kozyrev's visit to Tunis and his meeting with 'Arafat, which were made as part of a unilateral Russian initiative without coordination with the United States.

Christopher-'Arafat Conversation Reported

JN1303071094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Report by Muhammad Kurayshan from Tunis]

[Text] Following Washington's wariness and doubts about a statement by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Tunis on 'Arafat's readiness to resume negotiations, a telephone conversation between Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher reaffirmed that the issue is still deadlocked. The Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, said that, in his telephone contact, Christopher emphasized the importance of the peace process and the need to resume the negotiations. Wafa adds that while 'Arafat reiterated the PLO commitment to the peace process and the negotiations, he also stressed the importance of taking measures to protect the Palestinian people and their Muslim and Christian holy places, to provide international protection, and to take measures against the armed settlers who are threatening the peace process with their daily crimes.

In a commentary, the Wafa political editor said that nothing good will result without guarantees for the security of the Palestinians. He said the negotiations will become dangerous, reckless, and absent of any prospects, as he put it.

No Palestinian stand has yet been voiced on the possibility of a U.S. veto during a vote on the resolution about the Hebron massacre if differences between the two sides persist. However, it seems that so far the Palestinian leadership is prepared to face this possibility rather than return to negotiations that would not serve its dignity or secure a minimum of its demands.

'Arafat, Tunisian President Discuss U.S. 'Message'

JN1203220094 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has conferred with his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the Carthage Palace in Tunis. Brother Abu-'Ammar said the meeting addressed the UN Security Council debate on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

Brother Abu-'Ammar, who was speaking after the session, said he had briefed the Tunisian president on the contents of the message he received from the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He told him that the message pressed home the need for keeping the peace

process going. Abu-'Ammar reiterated the Palestinian position on the need for the Security Council to pass a strong resolution that takes into account the question of Jerusalem and condemns the attack on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and decides on immediate measures to protect our Palestinian people.

Brother Abu-'Ammar criticized the council's inability thus far to pass a resolution on the appalling massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

Cited by the French daily LE FIGARO, he said the council is not debating a draft resolution submitted by the Palestinians and the Arab and nonaligned group at the United Nations, but one proposed by the U.S. Administration itself. The Americans, he added, are opposed to any resolution that includes Jerusalem as part of the occupied territory, despite the fact that Resolution 799 on the fourth Geneva Convention states just that.

Abu-'Ammar demanded that Israel honor the Declaration of Principles agreement which Israel and the PLO signed in Washington on 13 September, 1993. 'Arafat said he will give Israel until 12 April to implement the Gaza-Jericho First Accord. If the Declaration of Principles fails to be honestly and accurately implemented, I will then have the right to put the facts before my people, added Abu-'Ammar.

As to why he set the 12 April date, brother Abu-'Ammar explained that it is the day fixed by the Declaration of Principles for a completion of the Israeli withdrawal. If that does not happen this means the Israeli Government has decided not to honor agreements it signed. The responsibility then shifts to the international community, particularly the U.S. and Russian sponsors of the peace process, brother Abu-'Ammar said.

'Urayqat Assails U.S. Intention To Veto Resolution

JN1203191194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah from the occupied territory]

[Excerpt] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, has said that the U.S. hinting that it will veto the UN Security Council resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque if the PLO does not resume the talks with Israel is a reiteration that the United States cannot play a role other than that of the adversary. He accused U.S. decisionmakers of being more Israeli than the Israelis themselves. He said: The U.S. Administration has lost its credibility and cannot be a fair broker or a sponsor of the peace process. He added: There might be a need to reassess the overall peace process by the Palestinian party in particular and the Arab parties in general. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi: U.S. 'Obstacle' to UN Resolution

NC1303114994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 13 Mar (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi has said that it is impossible for the Palestinians to return to the peace negotiations without a Security Council resolution providing for international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and without tangible, concrete measures on the ground to reassure the Palestinian people.

He told the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH today that the United States remains an obstacle in the way of such a resolution. Washington is asking the PLO to resume negotiations with Israel, although it knows that this is impossible without a Security Council resolution.

Qaddumi accused the current team at the U.S. State Department of being biased and sympathetic toward Israel and trying to extort the Palestinian people, as he put it.

UN Envoy on U.S. Stance on Hebron Resolution

NC1203081294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Nasir al-Qidwah, PLO representative at the United Nations, in New York, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Nasir al-Qidwah, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Qidwah] Good morning to you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The UN Security Council [UNSC] has postponed a resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. What are you and the Arab and Islamic groups at the United Nations doing now?

[Al-Qidwah] As you said, it is regrettable that the Security Council, after more than two weeks, has not yet passed a clear resolution regarding the massacre of our people in Hebron. This was a result of the United States insisting on certain positions. For our part, we have insisted on a minimum level of justice from the Security Council to deal with the incident and future situations. Anyway, we may be on our way to overcoming the recent obstacles; and the Council may be able to pass the required resolution soon, hopefully today.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You said the United States has insisted on certain positions, and that you insisted on other positions. Can you explain this?

[Al-Qidwah] There were many points of disagreement with the U.S. delegation. For example, we insisted on maintaining the normal Security Council position that holy Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. We cannot bargain over this issue, of course. The United States regrettably tried to alter this position. We also

wanted, and still want, the Security Council to mandate in no uncertain terms the necessary measures to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including an international presence. We have sought a clear mechanism to follow up on and guarantee the implementation of such measures.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] So the problem is the U.S. demand that Jerusalem be excluded from the resolution?

[Al-Qidwah] Without doubt, this was one of the biggest problems; but as I said, there were disagreements regarding the language that should be used regarding other issues: protection measures, a follow-up mechanism, and the measures the Israeli Government needs to take against the Israeli settlers.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Have you noticed a change in the U.S. position on the peace process in general and the PLO in particular, especially after the current moves by the Arab group at the United Nations?

[Al-Qidwah] With the full support and the cooperation of the Arab group, we have been very active. I cannot deny that the U.S. delegation was always ready to enter into continuous negotiations with our delegation. This necessarily means that they are ready, at least in principle, to deal seriously with the problems raised and the demands we made. But at the same time, as I said, there have been many differences, and so far we have not been able to resolve all of them.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Has the U.S. bias toward Israel become clear?

[Al-Qidwah] My impression is that the United States wants the peace process to be resumed without Israel first implementing some procedures as an occupation authority, in view of the massacre committed against the Palestinian people. We will try to resist this, and without doubt we will reject it. We hope that, through the support of our Arab brothers and other groups like the Non-aligned Movement and the Islamic states, we will be able to deal with this and overcome the difficulties.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The United States has asked for the Palestinians' participation in the peace process or the resumption of the peace process without any Palestinian conditions. How do you interpret this?

[Al-Qidwah] This is impossible. We have made it clear that we are interested in the peace process, but this process cannot be resumed or achieve success until a new reality is established on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territory—a reality that provides protection and security for the Palestinian people there, a reality through which specific steps and measures could be taken against the settlers, that could eliminate some of these settlements and expedite the negotiations over the final status of all the settlements in the occupied territories. This new reality alone could be adequate to restore the peace process to its normal course.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] My last question: What about the Islamic countries' moves in the UN Security Council?

[Al-Qidwah] The Islamic countries group has indeed provided us with full support in our political moves at the United Nations. The Islamic Conference Organization adopted a clear statement in this regard. We are currently holding close contacts with the Islamic states that are members of the Security Council.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] We thank you very much.

[Al-Qidwah] You are welcome.

Official Denies 'Arafat, Rabin To Meet in Washington

NC1203131294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has denied reports on an imminent meeting in Washington between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

In a statement to MENA, Ambassador Kamal said that the Palestinian leadership does not favor the idea of holding meetings like this before concrete measures are taken to protect the Palestinians, in Hebron in particular and in all occupied territories in general.

He stressed that the PLO refuses to resume the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations until after Israel commits itself clearly and unambiguously to protecting the Palestinian people under their occupation. It must also agree to the presence of an international protection force as stipulated in the Gaza-Jericho agreement, disarm the settlers when they are outside their settlements, release the Palestinian detainees, and discuss the issue of the settlements as a whole as soon as the executive agreement on self-government in Gaza and Jericho first is signed.

The Palestinian ambassador revealed that Palestinian-Israeli contacts were held through a third party in the wake of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre regarding holding meetings in Oslo between Palestinian and Israeli officials, but the PLO refused to hold such a meeting.

On the other hand, informed Palestinian sources in Cairo stressed that the wording of the UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre, which will be voted on on Monday, will determine whether the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will be resumed or not.

The sources said that citizens in the occupied territories want the international community and especially the Security Council to take a clear stand on the Israeli crime and to ensure their safety from the Israeli settlers' barbaric actions. They noted that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories reject a resumption of the negotiations without achieving these demands.

Observers believe that PLO cannot not make agree to resume the negotiations without such a resolution from

the Security Council, otherwise it would face such popular wrath that it might affect its position.

The Palestinian sources said that if the Security Council issues an appropriate resolution, the negotiations will be resumed in Washington at the beginning of next week and this will be followed by meetings in Cairo to discuss the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

Negotiations Break Off Seriously Considered

NC1103133794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 11 Mar (MENA)—Press reports published here today said that the Palestinian leadership is seriously thinking of officially announcing the break-off of negotiations with Israel.

These reports included a statement by an informed Palestinian source in Tunis which says that this development in the Palestinian stand comes in the wake of the failure of all political and diplomatic efforts and moves led by the PLO since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre at all levels to make Israel respond to the Palestinian demands to disarm the settlers in the occupied territories and to provide an international presence to protect the Palestinians living under the occupation.

The Palestinian source added that the Palestinian leadership is following with concern the premeditated U.S. prevarication aiming to thwart a Security Council resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, especially in light of the insinuations by a number of officials in the U.S. Mission at the United Nations on the possibility of delaying the Security Council debate on the issue until further notice.

This source revealed that the Palestinian leadership has received demands from Palestine National Council members and a number of national figures in the occupied territories demanding the breaking off of negotiations.

The Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH today cited a prominent Palestinian source as saying that the Palestinian leadership is still continuing diplomatic efforts in an attempt to break the deadlock in the negotiations. This source did not rule out the possibility that the coming few days could be decisive for either speeding up the peace process or closing this file for good.

The same paper also cites informed Palestinian sources as saying that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat refrained from following up on the telephone call he received from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin the day before yesterday lest any talk could be construed as a return to the peace negotiations, which were halted as a result of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The sources added that 'Arafat explained this position as insistence on the official and popular Palestinian stand of waiting for a clear resolution from the Security

Council that condemns the massacre and its perpetrators, sends international observers to the occupied territories, demands the disarming of the settlers and the removal of the settlements, and ensures security.

They added that the PLO command also wants to know the results of the official Israeli investigation and the identity of those responsible for not providing protection for the worshippers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

Regarding the several contacts held recently between the Palestinian leadership and Russian envoys, the Palestinian source said that Russia now has new and positive stands on the issue of peace in the Middle East and these stands stem from the restoration of the Russian political leadership's self-confidence resulting from defusing the armed conflict between Serbia and NATO over Bosnia. The source noted that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit Tunis in the next 48 hours to continue the consultations and efforts on the Middle East. It said that Russia supports the Palestinian demands and the Palestinian side agrees to the Russian proposal to hold a second international conference on the Middle East, which will be a new Madrid conference. The source expressed the belief that Russia has made a strong and influential return to the Middle East on the basis of a new concept of its relations with the countries of the region.

It said that the PLO will hold meetings at the Executive Committee, expanded leadership, and possibly the Central Council levels in the next few days to assess the situation.

'Scenario' for Return to Peace Talks Outlined

NC1203172594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 12 Mar (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have disclosed that intensive contacts are now under way between the PLO leaders in Tunis and officials in Cairo, Oslo, Washington, and Moscow to prepare a scenario for the PLO's return to the peace talks with Israel.

Under these arrangements, a Security Council resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque that will meet the Palestinian minimum demands will be issued. This will be followed by a declaration from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat that the PLO is ready to return to the negotiations, provided Israel will be committed to implementing the clauses of the Security Council resolution with guarantees from both the United States and Russia.

The second step will be the arrival in Tunis of a quadripartite Egyptian-Norwegian-U.S.-Russian delegation. The delegation will include Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary Nabil Fahmi, Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Terry Larsen [name as received], U.S. Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross, and Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Ivanov. They will meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, fly to Tel

Aviv to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, then return once again to Tunis to meet with 'Arafat to lay down the final formula for the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Following the meeting, 'Arafat will announce the PLO's approval to join the talks to be held in Washington.

The Palestinian sources further disclosed that the PLO leadership in the past three days has come under enormous pressure from various parties, so much so that it was hard for 'Arafat to catch his breath in between the various calls he received from Arab and international quarters. 'Arafat received two calls from U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross and another call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. According to the same sources, these calls centered on the Security Council resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The United States wants the Palestinians not to insist on adding a special paragraph in the resolution referring to East Jerusalem as an occupied territory. Faced with the Palestinians' insistence on their position, the United States told the PLO that it would state reservations about this paragraph or would abstain from voting, since the Security Council members will vote on the resolution paragraph by paragraph. Washington has told the PLO that it does not object to the remaining paragraphs or clauses in the draft resolution.

The third step envisages a meeting in Washington between Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], director of the PLO's Economic Department; and Uri Savir, Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General to discuss the security measures that need to be taken in the occupied territories as well as other issues related to the Palestinian police that will take over immediately after the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Gaza and Jericho. This will be followed by a meeting in Washington between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member.

The fourth and last step under this scenario, as seen by observers, will be a summit meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin in Washington in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton.

'Arafat received a message from Christopher yesterday in which he proposed a timetable for resuming the self-rule talks according to what he termed a package deal under which the PLO would announce its return to the negotiations. In return, the United States would back a paragraph in the Security Council resolution on guaranteeing the protection and safety of Palestinians in the occupied territories and abstain from voting on a paragraph related to the status of East Jerusalem.

Christopher proposed to send U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and his team to both Tunis and Israel soon to consult with 'Arafat and the Israeli officials, provided the two sides pledge not to raise any new conditions regarding the resumption of talks. Christopher also proposed that the PLO send a high-level

representative to Washington to meet with Israeli representatives to hold negotiations, provided these representatives are authorized to negotiate over the security matters that surfaced following the Hebron massacre. Christopher proposed a meeting between Abu-Mazin and Peres in Washington on 18 March to resume the talks and reach an agreement on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. Such an agreement would be signed by 'Arafat and Rabin.

In his reply to Christopher, 'Arafat accepted his proposals in principle so as to expedite a Security Council resolution and reach an understanding between the two sides over measures for protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories. 'Arafat accepted Christopher's invitation to Palestinian negotiators to meet with their Israeli counterparts in Washington the day after tomorrow, Monday, to endorse the understanding that the Palestinians will reach with Ross during his forthcoming trip to Tunis. 'Arafat stressed that these measures must precede the resumption of the talks, which would begin with a meeting between Peres and Abu-Mazin. 'Arafat also hoped that the United States would not abstain from voting on some clauses of the Security Council resolutions, since this would conflict with the policy of the United States, which has previously recognized East Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories.

Sources 'Believe' Talks To Resume 21 Mar

TA1303153194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The negotiations between Israel and the PLO will apparently resume on next Monday, 21 March. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that this date was proposed to Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin by U.S. officials.

The sources believe that agreement was reached on this issue. The talks will resume in Washington and in Paris. The sources told our correspondent that the PLO's agreement to renew the negotiations was made conditional on the Security Council's resolution regarding the Hebron massacre, and was given after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin promised the Americans that the negotiations, as well as Israel's redeployment in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, would be completed before 14 April.

Al-Husayni Welcomes Israeli Cabinet Decision on Kakh

TA1303184194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The Palestinians have welcomed the cabinet's decision on Kakh and Kahana Hay, but stressed that its test will lie in its enforcement on the ground. According to Faysal al-Husayni, one of the PLO leaders in the territories, the decision is not enough to return the Palestinians to the negotiations table.

[Begin al-Husayni recording, in English] If it will be followed by all of the steps that we were talking about and asking for, like evacuating the settlers from the heart of al-Khalil [Hebron], from Gaza, I believe this will help starting fruitful negotiations. [end recording]

Quray': Israeli Cabinet Decision 'Not Enough'

JN1303190994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1555 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Report on interview with Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department, by Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sa'd Mu'addi, on 13 March; place not given; from the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Commenting on the government's decision to outlaw Kakh, Kahana Hay, PLO Economic Department head Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-al-'Ala' had the following to say:

[Begin Quray' recording] Certainly, it is a good step in the right direction. But it is not enough. It does not come anywhere near equaling the crime that has been committed. A more substantial solution should be sought so an appropriate atmosphere is created for the resumption of negotiations. Measures must be taken around the Ibrahimi Mosque and the locations of settlers. That is what we had expected. [end recording]

Abu-al-'Izz Says PLO Wants Guarantees

LD1103141494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Abu-al-'Izz, Palestinian ambassador to Algeria, by unidentified correspondent in Algiers on 11 March—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-'Izz] First, we do not want to start from zero. It is well known that the Madrid conference was merely a general conference in which general speeches were delivered determining general outlines for the general policies of all the concerned parties, including the Palestinian side and the Israeli enemy.

The impasse through which the talks are going was caused by that massacre which was committed against the Palestinian people in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron. Initial investigations proved that the Israeli Government, Rabin's government, and the Israeli Army were directly or indirectly responsible for overlooking [the threat caused by] those settlers, though they were aware of a possibility for such a massacre being committed.

Thus, the impasse which the talks have reached does not require going back to zero, but it is in need of the guarantees which the PLO has demanded; security guarantees for the Palestinian people. These guarantees can never materialize before an international force, in one form or another, becomes available to help and protect

the Palestinian people. At the same time, the occupation forces should perform their duties toward the security of the Palestinian people.

Matters were moving in a natural way before this massacre. There were timetables and measures which would have been taken a few days later were it not for the perpetration of this massacre.

Thus, I am saying that if guarantees to protect the Palestinian people were offered to us in Madrid, Washington, Cairo, or Taba, we would not be against any meeting, anywhere, but it should secure for us such guarantees, on condition that we do not go back to the starting point, but to what we have reached, i.e. [Israeli] withdrawal should start within days and conclude before 13 April, the previously agreed on date during the signing ceremony in Washington.

[Correspondent] Do we understand that if the Security Council does not sanction in its meeting today, or tomorrow, a resolution regarding your requests, the Palestinians will boycott the talks?

[Abu-al-'Izz] If the Security Council does not sanction an orientation which contains security guarantees for our people, it could mean that the Security Council is not really concerned with the progress of a genuine and just peace that would achieve security and stability for the peoples of the region, including the Palestinian people, and the United States bears the responsibility for this. As it is clear, the latter is the one which actually prevents the Security Council adopting a resolution to this effect.

Abu-Nidal Reportedly in Libya, Said Invited to Russia

NC0903152094 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 7

[Text] Informed Arab circles have stated that the leader of Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council [FRC], who is known as Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], may have received an invitation from extremist Russian quarters to visit Moscow and be used in the internal struggle in Russia. According to these circles, Abu-Nidal is now in Libya.

Abu-Nidal Group Denies Link With Diplomat's Death

JN1403090194 Amman AL-'ASR AL-JADID in Arabic 13 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC], led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has said it will not be dragged into a confrontation with Jordan despite the arrest of some of its members. The group appealed to King Husayn not to yield to pressure by launching a campaign against it.

A statement by an official FRC spokesman said: We appeal to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian administration to fully investigate events and facts and

to consider the dangers of any compliance with Western pressure, regardless of their nature.

The FRC statement denied any connection with the killing of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah and said: We were surprised that the al-Ma'ayitah case was attributed to our movement. The statement added that dozens of leading and well-known cadres were arrested in campaigns launched last month, but that these arrests will not drag the FRC into antagonizing Jordan.

The official spokesman added: Proceeding from our movement's awareness of the ghastliness of what is afflicting the nation today and our awareness of possible future disasters, and in order to avoid making mistakes, we would like to emphasize that we refuse to be implicated. We also stress our commitment to our policy and refer to our endurance of sacrifices, pains, and difficulties with strength and nobility.

The group denied that anti-government actions were taken by those recently arrested. It said most of those who were arrested had previously served long prison terms in Jordan despite the fact that their activities were conducted with the knowledge of the Jordanian authorities.

Jibril, Iranian Diplomat Address Damascus Rally

JN1203084794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] On the occasion of world Jerusalem day, the masses of our Palestinian Arab people in al-Sayyidah Zaynab camp, southern Damascus, staged a huge procession this morning.

The procession was led by a number of general secretaries of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, led by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], Central Committee secretary of the Palestine National Liberation Movement [PNLM]-Fatah; Fathi al-Shaqqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC; Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah, assistant secretary of PNLM-Fatah; Muhammad Abu-Musa, command member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas; and Abu-Istayf [not further identified], Central Committee member of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; and other alliance leaders.

Mohammad Shari'ti, cultural counselor at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus and an Iranian delegation were also in the forefront of the procession.

Our correspondent in Damascus said that since the early morning hours, the masses of our people gathered in the streets of al-Sayyidah Zaynab camp, then headed for al-Sayyidah Zaynab tomb where Ahmad Jibril delivered a speech. He said: Today we stand here on the occasion

of world Jerusalem day—this day which Imam Khomeini, may God have mercy on him, made an international day. This was decided immediately after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. Imam Khomeini said Israel is a cancerous growth that should be removed, and Jerusalem should have an international day. With this, Imam Khomeini drew a link between Jerusalem day and the blessed month of Ramadan, and the last Friday of that month in particular. The Islamic conquests and the Muslims' battles against heretics were carried out in this blessed month.

Ahmad Jibril recalled what Imam Khomeini said—that Islam without Palestine and without Jerusalem is an incomplete Islam, and Muslims throughout the world should work for the restoration of Jerusalem and Palestine.

Jibril added: We meet today on world Jerusalem day at a time when the whole of Palestine suffers from massacres and repression of children, woman, and the elderly. These Jews, who killed prophets and messengers, have never hesitated to commit more massacres. You recall, o brothers, the massacre at the holy al-Aqsa Mosque and how they kill the worshipers who were prostrate before Almighty God. This took place on Friday. Two week ago, you heard how the Jews killed or injured hundreds of worshipers at the Ibrahimi Mosque. This also took place on Friday.

The history of our people in Palestine is full of massacres, from Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, Qibyah, Sabra and Shatila, and 'Uyun Qarah, until the latest massacre. The Zionist leaders arrogantly denounced the massacre of al-Ibrahimi Mosque, saying that its perpetrator was mad and deranged. We ask terrorist Rabin: Who committed the al-Aqsa Mosque and Dayr Yasin massacres? Was it not the Zionist army?

Jibril went on to say: These lies and tricks do not deceive anyone. Today, the capitulationist leadership, which signed an agreement with the Zionists and relinquished everything, agreed to sell the homeland and the blood of martyrs to the enemies of God and humanity.

We say to all these defeatists that the Palestinian people—their women, youths, and elderly—have not calmed down and have not become tired. Haven't they seen the children chasing the Zionist soldiers and throwing stones at them? Haven't they seen the women taking kitchen knives and stabbing the enemy's soldiers before being martyred? Haven't they seen how the mujahidin in Palestine fight the enemies of God? We say to these people: Do whatever you want, but God's will shall prevail.

Jibril concluded his speech by addressing Muslims all over the world and said: Do not despair of God's mercy because God told the faithful that they will attain victory. If you aid (the cause of) God, He will aid you. [Koranic verse]

Mohammad Shari'ti, cultural counselor at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, read a statement in which he condemned the massacre of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, and all the massacres the enemy has committed in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

He hailed the Palestinian people and urged Muslims to support the Muslims in Palestine and to carry out jihad for the restoration of Jerusalem and Palestine.

PFLP-GC Denies 2 Killed, 2 Captured in Lebanon

JN1203210794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

Since our heroes' operation in the al-Rayhan-al-'Ayshiyah area in southern Lebanon last week, an operation which resulted in the killing and injury of many agents, the Zionist enemy has been trying to lift the morale of its troops and agents through lies and fabrication. And it seems that what the enemy has broadcast about the killing of two PFLP-GC elements and capturing two others is part of the same series of lies and deception. We, the PFLP-GC, are interested in exposing the Zionist enemy's lies. We have not lost a single martyr in the aforementioned operation and none of our stragglers has been captured.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

DFLP Statements on Border Raid Reported

NC1203190994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Report by Muhammad Bishqar in Beirut]

[Text] Palestinian mujahidin launched a major attack on a Zionist settlement in northern occupied Palestine today. Subsequent extensive clashes between the mujahidin and the Zionist forces left a large number of the latter dead or wounded.

The Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] issued three successive statements in Beirut this afternoon, claiming responsibility for the attack. It reported that one of its groups infiltrated occupied Palestinian territory via south Lebanon and attacked a Zionist settlement. Several hours of fierce fighting with the Zionist occupation forces followed, during which the DFLP fighters killed or injured a large number of enemy troops.

The DFLP statements asserted that one of its fighters, who was in charge of maintaining communications from south Lebanon with the other group members, was arrested by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. The DFLP demanded his immediate release.

According to earlier reports from south Lebanon, two Palestinian martyrs fell during fighting with the occupation forces today and a third was captured by the enemy. A fourth was arrested by UNIFIL's Norwegian contingent.

This afternoon the Zionist occupation forces bombarded and raked with heavy machine-gun fire liberated villages in the eastern sector of the southern border belt, including Dallafah, Qilya, Zummarayya, and Jabal al-Dahr.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance addressed a new warning this afternoon to the agents serving in Antoine Lahd's militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] that it will punish all of them sooner or later.

The warning added that the enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to south Lebanon to reassure the agents and all the financial and military assistance given to them will not save them from the mujahidin.

DFLP, PFLP Command Still Wants 'Arafat Out

JN1203180494 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA)—The unified command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has condemned the U.S. role which is obstructing the Security Council's role by preventing it from adopting a resolution condemning Israel for the barbaric massacre it perpetrated in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

In a statement issued today, the command said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's retreat from demanding international protection for the Palestinians, the dismantlement of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and evacuation of settlers is a new violation of the Palestinian national consensus that negotiations with Israel should be stopped.

In its statement, the command said that it renews its call for 'Arafat's resignation as a necessary step to learn lessons from the Israeli massacre and to maintain Palestinians' national rights.

PFLP Official Denies Story on Weapons in Habash Car

JN1103134094 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 12 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, PLO Executive Committee member and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau member, has denied the rumor that tried to link the movie theater bombings [in Jordan] to the search of PFLP Secretary General George Habash's car, in which, the rumor alleges, weapons and silences were found.

In a statement to SHIHAN, Malluh said such rumors seek to harm Palestinian-Jordanian relations and to revive the past. Malluh said that tendentious parties are trying to link the bombings to the Palestinian factions in general to cast doubts on Palestinian-Jordanian relations, which are now being established on strong foundations.

He said Dr. Habash came to Jordan on 23 February on a private visit and was not searched. He was treated with all the respect befitting a pan-Arab struggler, Malluh added.

Algeria

Muslim Fundamentalists Escape in Mass Jail Break

Lax Security Cited

NC1103222394 Paris AFP in English 2147 GMT
11 Mar 94

[Text] Algiers, March 11 (AFP)—A thousand prisoners, including at least 280 Moslem fundamentalists, escaped in a mass jail break after Islamic guerrillas attacked the prison holding them, reliable sources here said Friday [11 March].

Four prison warders were killed in Thursday's jail-break at Tazoult some 400 kilometres (240 miles) southeast of the capital.

The prisoners escaped when an unknown number of assailants stormed the prison during the Ramadan meal break at 1800 GMT when security was lax, the sources added.

One hundred common-law prisoners returned to the prison after the jail break—the most spectacular since the start of fundamentalist violence in Algeria two years ago.

No official confirmation was immediately available.

Tazoult prison accommodates 3,000 detainees, many of them considered particularly dangerous.

Of the Islamic fundamentalists who escaped, several had been sentenced to death.

Last November three armed fundamentalists attacked Sidi Ghiles prison, near Cherchell, seriously wounding the governor but no detainees escaped.

In July 60 Islamic guerrillas escaped from Mers-el-Kebir military prison, near Oran. Five fugitives were later killed by security forces.

In early 1991, 103 detainees escaped from Blida prison, near here, after an attack by an armed Islamic group.

In mid-1992 another 20 Islamic extremists escaped from a police van during their transfer from Algiers' Serkadji prison to Tazoult.

The Algerian authorities have rounded up thousands in a crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists who launched a bloody guerrilla war against the secular administration following the January 1992 cancellation of a general election the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Manhunt Launched

NC1203103894 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT
12 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Algiers, March 12 (AFP)—Security forces were engaged in a massive manhunt Saturday for about 1,000 prisoners, including 100 Moslem fundamentalists on death row, who escaped when Islamic guerrillas stormed their prison, reliable sources said.

Police, gendarmes and troops launched a joint security sweep using helicopters to search the mountainous area near Tazoult, 400 kilometres (240 miles) southeast of the capital, following Thursday's mass breakout.

Their search is being hampered by the difficult terrain which nationalist fighters used to hole up during the 1954-62 war of independence from France.

The Algerian authorities has so far refused to officially confirm the escape, the most spectacular since the start of fundamentalist violence in Algeria two years ago.

The Algerian authorities have rounded up thousands in a crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists who launched a bloody guerrilla war against the secular administration following the January 1992 cancellation of a general election the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

According to the sources around 150 Islamic guerrillas attacked the prison around 7:00 p.m. (1800 GMT) on Thursday during the Ramadan meal break when security was lax, killing four prison warders, the sources added.

It was not clear whether the operation had been launched by the Islamic Group (GIA) or its rival Armed Islamic Movement (MIA), the sources said.

Some 400 fundamentalists serving life sentences also escaped in the jail break, as well as 200 criminals with common law convictions.

Tazoult prison accommodates 3,000 detainees, many of them considered particularly dangerous. [passage omitted]

Justice Ministry Issues Statement

LD1203165094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1600 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] The Justice Ministry issued today a statement in which it announces that on Thursday [10 March], an armed group launched a fierce attack against Tazoult penitentiary center, formerly known as Lambese, in Batna wilaya, when people were breaking the Ramadan fast.

The statement indicates that following an exchange of fire with prison guards, the attackers managed to destroy alarm devices and stormed the prison, thanks to collusion from two members of the prison staff, according to initial investigations.

The statement adds that as a result of this assault, a number of persons convicted of assassination and acts of sabotage managed to escape. During the attack and resistance from the guards, the assailants killed one guard and seriously injured another four. They also took seven guards hostage.

Following this operation, the combined forces took the necessary security measures to rearrest the escapees and the assailants. So far, these forces have been able to apprehend around 39 persons. Another five have been killed during an exchange of fire. The manhunt and combing operation continues.

Prime Minister Orders Inquiry

NC1203190194 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Redha Malek has decided to form an inquiry commission into an incident that involved an armed attack on an Algerian prison yesterday during which more than 400 [as heard] prisoners escaped. Some members of the country's armed Islamic movements, who faced the death penalty, were among the escapees.

The Algerian security forces are continuing to comb the area surrounding the prison to search for the escaped convicts and the gunmen who carried out the attack.

Four prison guards were killed in the attack.

Security Forces Capture 79, Kill 24

LD1403143094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] The security services today announced that 79 of the prisoners who escaped from Tazoult prison last Thursday evening have been recaptured, while 24 others have been killed by the security forces which have retrieved several weapons.

A statement by the security services adds that the search and surrounding operations are continuing. On the other hand, the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities announces to the citizens residing in the provinces of Algiers, Blida, Boumerdes, Medea, Tipaza, Ain Defla, Bouira, Djelfa, Msila, and Chelef that from tomorrow night the curfew hours will be from 2330 to 0400.

Egypt

Envoy to Israel on Need To Remove All Settlements

NC1403071994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni has stressed Egypt's insistence on the need for international supervision to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories to prevent the repetition of the incident in Hebron.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, Monday, he noted that Egypt's stand on the settlement policy is clear and known and that it considers the settlements illegal and that they should all be removed. He remarked that there is agreement to discuss the matter in the final stages of the solution.

He expressed his belief that the Israeli-Palestinian talks will not be resumed officially until the Security Council passes a resolution denouncing the Hebron operation and providing protection for the Palestinians.

The ambassador denounced Israeli and Western media exaggerations and one-upmanship in handling the manifestations of violence and terrorism in Egypt and these media's attempts to damage Egypt's image abroad.

Interior Minister Discusses Terrorism, Security

PM1103161294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Mar 94 p 7

[Interview with Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi by 'Amr 'Abd-al-Sami' in Cairo on 9 March]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Sami'] Reports of the arrest of 25 terrorists involved in recent bombings in Cairo have aroused general satisfaction in Egypt. Meanwhile the terrorists were shocked by the reports, which caused them to issue a statement on Tuesday announcing a halt to their operations for a week. However, the escape of three terrorists, among them Tal'at Yasin Hammam (Islamic Group), arouses questions about whether these fugitive are capable of carrying out new operations. What is your opinion?

[Al-Alfi] Anything is possible in the situation we are going to talk about. The terrorists' method is "hit and run." It is a base method which reflects weakness, not strength. A strong organization does what it wants whenever it wants and wherever it wants, regardless of the losses. But we note that the Terrorists' method does not indicate any sign of strength at all. For our part, we are constantly directing strikes against terrorist schemes, the most recent of which was the arrest of the bombings organization. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] It is said that terrorism poses a threat to all Arab and Islamic states. To what extent are Pakistani authorities cooperating in this connection, and are there any positive signs in this cooperation under the new government there?

[Al-Alfi] Contacts with Pakistan are still continuing.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Has there been any positive development under the new government headed by Benazir Bhutto, which has no fundamentalist link, in contrast to the former government of Nawaz Sharif?

[Al-Alfi] To some extent.

['Abd-al-Sami'] What do you mean by "to some extent?"

[Al-Alfi] I mean there is a positive development.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Has that development produced tangible results?

[Al-Alfi] Yes, it has produced tangible results, but these matters cannot be discussed in the press. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] Have you detected any form of Sudanese or Iranian support for recent terrorist activities in Egypt?

[Al-Alfi] It is known that there is support, and there is information whose details are being examined. States are actually involved in these actions. And some states are not interested in confronting what is happening on their territory in this connection with decisive measures. However, I tell you that many cases are under investigation or being heard in the court. And it is in the interests of the investigation not to say who is behind these operations or reveal information in this connection, so that all elements can be completed. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] How do you view Libyan allegations that U.S. and Israeli intelligence services kidnapped al-Kikhya to give these states the right to escalate their campaign against Libya and hit it?

[Al-Alfi] So far none of what has been said has proved to be true. On that issue, I would like to say that al-Kikhya came to Egypt with an Algerian passport to attend a conference. He did not inform us of that. Besides, he is not a political refugee in Egypt. Any political refugee in Egypt is provided with protection, surveillance, and security.

Al-Kikhya did not request any security. And he was not one of those requiring protection, because he was not resident in Egypt. He came as an ordinary person of foreign nationality, then left the country. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] How do you view the effect of the future situation in Gaza on security in Egypt, especially as regards the possibility of some terrorists' infiltrating via the Rafah crossing point if the Palestinian-Israeli disagreement over who should control this crossing point leads to a formula resulting in loopholes in control measures?

[Al-Alfi] There are security preparations everywhere, especially the outlets and borders in Egypt: east, west, north, and south; on land, at sea, and in the air. I have set up a special department called the outlets department headed by an assistant minister in order to supply the outlets with the latest equipment to detect falsification and forgery, uncover wanted people and smuggled and banned items, and arrest those who infiltrate the borders. This is to be coordinated with the border guard in the Armed Forces.

We have no fears over the possibility of some terrorists' infiltrating, for two reasons: First, we are in control of our side of the Rafah crossing point. This side will

obviously not be subjected to any change, regardless of the formula reached between the Palestinians and the Israelis vis-a-vis control over the other side in the negotiations concerning the implementation of the declaration of principles agreement.

Second, both the PLO and Israel are eager to control security in Gaza, and it cannot be said that one of them is more interested in the matter than the other.

There is complete agreement that the peace agreement's success requires complete vigilance, because any terrorist schemes through the Rafah crossing point would have a bigger negative impact on the future of peace between the Palestinians and Israel than on the situation in Egypt.

['Abd-al-Sami'] I am asking that question in particular because there are fears that a relationship might be established between extremist elements from Hamas, for example, and terrorists in Egypt.

[Al-Alfi] We are taking account of all that. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] Quantities of arms and explosives are seized whenever terrorist dens are attacked. Where do the extremists get these quantities of arms and explosives, when there are tight restrictions imposed on the arms trade and quarries?

[Al-Alfi] A major part of them comes from the remnants of the past wars in Sinai. To this day we are still seizing dens in Sinai containing huge quantities of all types of arms, explosives, and ammunition. This is why a comprehensive survey of these areas has been launched to destroy this dangerous source, which is used by terrorists and other criminals. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Attack Christian Monastery Near al-Qusiyah

4 Reportedly Killed

NC1103215194 Paris AFP in English 2135 GMT 11 March 94

[Text] Cairo, March 11 (AFP)—Gunmen killed four people and wounded three Friday [11 March] when they fired shots at a Coptic Christian monastery near al-Qusiyah in Upper Egypt, sources close to the security services said here.

Unidentified assailants opened fire from a car, hitting people going toward the al-Moharraaq monastery, 11 kilometres (seven miles) from al-Qusiyah, which lies 350 kilometres (217 miles) south of Cairo.

The attack took place at around 6:30 p.m. (1630 GMT), when the traditional iftar meal breaks the fast during the Moslem holy month of Ramadan.

The timing of the attack and the target indicated the victims could have been Christians, but there were no details available about them or the gunmen who fled the scene.

Islamic militants have previously carried out attacks against Coptic Christians in the same region.

Investigation Begins

NC1103224394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2212 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Four people died and three others were wounded this evening when unidentified gunmen fired in the direction of the gate of al-Muharrraq Monastery in al-Qusiyah, Asyut Governorate, and escaped.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said that at about 1830 today, unidentified men fired at the gate of al-Muharrraq Monastery in al-Qusiyah, 45 km north of Asyut in Upper Egypt. The source added that Safwat Sami Shawqi, a 13-year-old student; Najib Sa'id Yunan, a 30-year-old employee of Ghabbur Company; Sayf Shafiq Sayf, a 23-year-old peasant; and the monastery's priest Nur-al-Qums Binyamin, 45, died as a result.

The source said the three wounded people were taken to al-Qusiyah Hospital for treatment.

Officials of the Asyut Security Directorate, the Public Security Authority, the Criminology Investigation Department, and the Criminology Laboratory went to the scene of the incident to investigate. The area is being searched and ambushes are being set to arrest the culprits. The prosecution has been informed to begin an investigation.

National Unity Committee Condemns Attack

NC1203144394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—The Egyptian national unity committee denounced last night's criminal attack on the Dayr al-Muharrraq in al-Qusiyah, one of Egypt's sacred religious places respected by all Egyptians, both Muslims and Christians.

In a statement it issued today, the committee stressed that this aggression is a grave escalation of the attempt to divide Egyptians and threaten their national unity, adding that it is an aggression against Egypt's Muslims and Christians.

The statement appealed to Muslim and Christian forces and bodies to rise to responsibility, condemn this criminal act and its perpetrators, confront this trend, and work assiduously for the unity of all Egyptians under the slogan of: Religion belongs to God and the homeland belongs to everyone. [passage omitted]

Archbishop Says Incident 'Isolated'

NC1203150794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Asyut, 12 Mar (MENA)—Anba Saverios, archbishop of al-Muharrraq Monastery in al-Qusiyah, has stated that the shooting at the monastery yesterday was an isolated incident intended to grab media headlines, strike at national unity, and divide the nation's two communities.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the archbishop said the incident will have no effect on the relations between Muslims and Christians but will make them more determined to adhere to national unity.

On the circumstances of the incident, he said that at approximately 1800 yesterday, a citizen accompanied by his relatives arrived in a car to visit the monastery. The head of the monastery apologized to them because they could not enter the monastery during the period of fasting. He added that while the car's passengers were standing outside the monastery, unknown people opened fire at the car and its passengers. He added that 27 empty cartridges fired from an automatic weapon were found at the scene of the incident.

Gunmen Fire on Nile Tourist Boat Near Asyut

AFP Reports No Injuries

NC1303110594 Paris AFP in English 0928 GMT 13 Mar 94

[By Lamia Radi]

[excerpt] Asyut, Egypt, March 13 (AFP)—Gunmen shot at 14 Britons on a Nile cruise after dawn on Sunday but no-one was hurt, in the latest of several weekend attacks by suspected Islamic militants that killed two priests and six other people.

Police escorting the Royal Rhapsody cruise boat fired back but the gunmen escaped along the Nile River near the Islamic militant stronghold of Asyut, 360 kilometers (216 miles) south of Cairo, security services said.

The tourists were sailing from Suhaj to the capital Cairo.

For the past year police have escorted tour boats in rubber dinghies in a broad effort to protect tourists targeted by militants seeking to sabotage the Egyptian economy and bring down the secular government. [passage omitted]

2 Ambushers Wounded

NC1303115994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Asyut, 13 Mar (MENA)—At 0715 Cairo time today, unidentified gunmen fired at the Nile cruiser The Royal Rhapsody, which belongs to the Thomas Cook

tour company, while it was passing near the island of Mijris in the Nile near Badari.

There was slight damage to the ship's hull but the 14 British tourists on board were not hurt.

Forces escorting the ship returned the fire promptly and intensively. Sources indicate that there were three gunmen, two of whom were wounded in the exchange.

The same ship also was hit by several bullets near the island of Bakur at 0845. The escort force returned the fire at the sources and silenced them. There were no casualties.

Police besieged the area to comb it and try to arrest the perpetrators.

No one was hurt, and only slight damage to the ship's hull resulted.

'Big Powers' Asked To Stop Leveling Accusations at Arabs

NC1203215494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2058 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has asked the big powers to stop leveling accusations at the Arab countries, especially under the current circumstances, or to control them, particularly since there are some sides who are committing crimes in broad daylight and no one is taking any measures against them.

The paper said in its comment for tomorrow, Sunday, that most of these accusations come from one big power with interests in the region. It has some relationship to the issue at which accusations are being leveled. The paper added that these accusations are not based on anything other than reports containing unconfirmed information or guesswork.

It added that these accusations are linked to some kind of violation of international peace and security, which means that the road is now open for taking the necessary resolutions accompanied by certain sanctions on the part of the Security Council.

The paper said that Iraq was previously accused of using gas against the Shiites in the marshlands. After investigations, it was proven that this had not taken place. Libya was also accused of setting up installations for producing chemical weapons—an accusation for which there is no evidence to back it up. Similar accusations have been leveled at other Arab countries.

Newspapers View Failure To Pass Hebron Resolution

AL-JUMHURIYAH Blames U.S.

NC1303070794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2112 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the United States, which alone is hampering the issuance of an international resolution condemning the Hebron massacre, recently proposed a deal to the PLO. This deal includes the fact that the United States will agree to a resolution stipulating an unarmed international presence in the occupied territories in return for a Palestinian commitment to resume the peace negotiations.

In its editorial for tomorrow, Sunday, the newspaper expresses its derision for such an American proposal. It wonders whether this was all the U.S. mountain [reference to the saying "The mountain hath labored and brought forth a mouse"] could produce. It describes the resolution as inadequate, and says its contents have been gutted. The international force would also be disarmed. In addition, the paper says that Washington has not taken into account all the facts that have been revealed about the role of the Israeli Army in the massacre, insofar as they have to do with their Israeli ally.

AL-JUMHURIYAH clarifies that all the Zionist massacres confirm that if the issue of settlements in the occupied territories is not presented and pressure is not put on Israel to remove them, or to at least disarm the settlers, then the peace that would be established would be one of oppression and submission.

The paper calls for an Arab stand supporting the Palestinians when they resume negotiations. At least the Arab cordons states should meet to make a united decision regarding the peace process.

It affirms that as a result of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel is every day reaping new gains. It notes that the latest of these gains is the restoration of military cooperation between Israel and France after 27 years of estrangement in the wake of the June 1967 aggression.

The newspaper wonders why Israel gets all this sympathy and protection from the West despite the fact that it has never stopped its aggression and oppression. The paper says: It must be the alliances between politicians and the language of self-interest.

U.S. Urged To Be Impartial

NC1403080794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper calls on the international community to face up to its political, humanitarian, and moral responsibility by reaching a decisive and clear resolution on the brutal

crime of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque perpetrated by Israeli extremism under the sponsorship of Israeli military and civilian leaders.

In an editorial written by its chief editor today, Monday, the paper says that the Security Council's failure to pass a resolution of denunciation during the past two weeks is repulsive and indicates that the aim is to contain the revolution of world public opinion against the brutal measures against the Palestinian people.

The paper calls on the United States to act as a fair judge, to stop being partial, and adhere to moral and humanitarian principles in its international dealing if it is serious in truly playing the role of superpower in today's world.

The paper emphasizes that a clear vision of the flagrant aggression being suffered by the Palestinians will contribute to the resumption of the peace process in an atmosphere of trust until an agreement recovering the legitimate Palestinian Arab rights is reached. Thus, the paper concludes, the hope for a fair world order guaranteeing security and stability for all states and nations can materialize.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers 'Id al-Fitr Sermon

LD1303180994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio
Network in Arabic 1255 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Sermon by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli on 13 March on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, prayers and peace be upon the messenger of God, the seal of prophets who has exchanged these two days of 'Id al-Fitr for two days of the Jahiliyah [the pre-Islam era of Ignorance]. This 'Id and the one that follows it were days of indulgence, leisure, and pleasure during the era of the Jahiliyah. [passage omitted]

The qiblah means having the same direction. By direction I do not mean that Muslims face from west to east, or from east to west, or from north to south, or from south to north, but that they move towards a single aim. Proof of that is that Muslims used to face another direction from the south to the north; [words indistinct] that they used to achieve their aim [word indistinct] from the qiblah, which is the single aim. Muslims in the eastern and western parts of the land are nowadays in dire need of a united aim and united direction. However, nowadays they give the appearance and look as if they are moving towards one qiblah, whereas in fact they have different qiblahs. What we see now is a kind of hypocrisy and false appearances. Yesterday more than a million people were praying in the Holy House [Kaaba in Mecca] while tens were at the same time being slaughtered in the al-Ibrahimi mosque in usurped Palestine. All

that they offered were urgent calls and prayers, which neither helps nor hurts those who are being massacred in the al-Ibrahimi mosque.

Muslims ought to have marched from Mecca to Jerusalem, to liberate it, and to al-Ibrahimi mosque to rescue the hundreds of praying men who were laid open to slaughter at dawn. [passage omitted]

He who wanted paradise during these moments ought to have gone to Palestine to take revenge on the Zionists who shun nothing to eliminate Muslims. Even a doctor was armed with a machine gun. The Christian world, which failed to protest, laments if a Jew of a Christian is killed by Muslims or others. The Christian, Catholic world did not lift a finger. More still, the so-called UN Security Council has so far obstructed the adopting of a resolution even to just condemn this hideous slaughter. America told them that condemning Israel is forbidden, that the carrying out of chapter 7 against the Israelis is forbidden, the Israelis are above the UN charter. [passage omitted]

From now on the Americans have no right to speak about human rights, or about Christ, or ethics, or humanity. They have backed with all strength the slaughter of the al-Ibrahimi mosque. Jews have also dropped the fig leaf, now that it has become clear that they arm doctors. [passage omitted]

Suddenly we find a surgeon carrying a machine gun and attacks worshippers inside the sacred al-Ibrahimi mosque at dawn. The United States stated that if you want to denounce anybody, you should restrict your condemnation against this surgeon. The president of the Jews addressed the world and said that we are sorry for this massacre committed by a deranged person. Then this statement was reported by the mass media, the coward no-Arab mass media; they showed photographs of this doctor who was filmed on several occasions carrying a machine gun, addressing groups of Jews, and inciting them to take revenge on Muslims and avenge a Jewish woman who was killed in one of the streets.

Unfortunately, neither the Arab nor the Muslim delegates nor the coward Arab governmental mass media dared to expose this reality. Nobody, apart from the Libyan delegate, told the Security Council that this doctor was not insane; that in the past he was shown to the whole world on television screens carrying a machine gun and addressing masses from Jewish occupying settlers. What other justification is left to the United States now; it is being accused by the world. I am not talking here about the coward governmental official world, the traitor and the world that has been bought up. No, I am referring to the free world, to the masses, the peoples, the free mass organizations; the international conscience and the conscience of humanity; the genuine religion, the true Christianity; the true Judaism and the genuine Islam. What can the United States say when it is being told that you officially sponsor terrorism and protect terrorists?

From this very day, the United States has no right to talk about those who protect terrorism, human rights, the states which sponsor terrorism. No other country can match the United States when it comes to sponsoring terrorism; it is followed by Western states and Christianity in this matter.

We would like to remind the Islamic nation of what we told it a short while ago. This is a Jewish-Christian alliance, there is no doubt about it. It is banging the drums of a crusade war. In parallel, we are forced, out of self-defense, to sound bells of confrontation and defense of ourselves and homes. This is because we are facing barbaric and savage nations that worship idols, crucify Christ, arm surgeons, and block attempts of the international organization [UN] to condemn the aggression and denounce barbarism, savagery, and mass annihilation of a defenseless people, whose sole crime lies in the fact that it is defending its land and its right to live on earth. [passage omitted]

The new world order means that Jews and Christians control Muslims and if they can, they will after that dominate Confucianism and other religions in India, China, and Japan. [passage omitted]

What the Christians and Jews are now saying: We were determined to crush Communism and we must now crush Islam and Confucianists.

Now, we hope to see a confrontation between China that heads the Confucianist camp and America that heads the Christian crusader camp. We have no justifications but to be biased against the crusaders. We are standing with Confucianism, and by allying ourselves with it and fighting alongside it in one international front, we will eliminate our mutual opponent.

So, we, as Muslims, will support China in its struggle against our mutual enemy. [passage omitted]

We wish it China victory, we support it and call on all small, enslaved, and intimidated peoples to unite with the anti-crusaders' camp because the crusade beats the drums of war. We are beating the drums of confrontation in preparation for the defense of the honor of Islam and sanctity of Muslims. [passage omitted]

We are amazed, in fact, to see those who claim to embrace Islam and claim to serve and defend it taking the Jews and the Christians as guardians in an open violation of the very Koran that they claim to have faith in.

The Koran says: Ye who believe take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors. They are friends and protectors to each other.

This has happened. America is the protector of Israel, Israel is the protector of America. They are friends and protectors to each other, this is true.

How can you, the Muslim, take those as [Awliya'] responsible for your affairs, befriend and ally with them,

and still claim to be a Muslim? This is blasphemy, hypocrisy, and deception of the Muslims. [passage omitted]

How can a Muslim, an Arab state be an ally of America? What Islam are they left with? Such a state is a hypocrite and immoral, ruled by a despot, outside Islam, charlatan, liar, Musaylimah the Liar [Islamic figure who pretended to be a prophet]. [passage omitted]

We can say that a Muslim ruler who is a friend, an ally to America, whose guardian is America, we can say to him: You are an unbeliever, a Christian, and a Jew. [passage omitted]

There are Muslims who send forces to Somalia to cover the slaughtering of the Arab Muslim Somali people by the American forces. This is blasphemy. Any one alongside the Christian forces in Somalia is an unbeliever. This is what God says, not us.

Some believers said: America is with us, Israel is not with us, France is with us and so is Britain; you want us not to have these as guardians, what will we do then. Well, God said: Your guardian is God, his messenger, and the believers. What more do you want than God.

God said: I am your guardian; he is stronger than America. [passage omitted]

Their guardian is God, his messenger, and the believers. [passage omitted]

From this sacred place and on this great day, I address myself to our brothers who have put themselves in the service of the Jews and the Christians to return to the fold soon, and we say to the Islamic Conference Organization and the Islamic nation that an Islamic people, the Libyan people, on orders from America, Britain, and France, is prohibited from performing the rites of pilgrimage, the pilgrimage that takes place in an Arab land.

We tell our brothers of the Islamic nation, we draw their attention to the difficult situation of the sacred House of God [The Kaaba, in Mecca], concerning which the falsified Security Council resolutions were implemented with American threat. They had been implemented on Holy Mecca and the tomb of the Prophet. When an airplane takes off from Libya, it is not allowed to cross Saudi air space or to land while carrying pilgrims to Mecca and Medina.

Our brothers who are standing in the pilgrims way and who are preventing us from arriving for pilgrimage are in an unenviable situation. The poor, they are in such a situation that we do not want to put more pressure on them, nor do we want to further expose them. Perhaps it is their economic conditions, spiritual and material weakness, their helplessness, and their limited perception that have made them seek protection with the American White House, and obliged them to carry out the decisions of the Christian states against the pilgrimage and pilgrims. But at the same time, we say that America ought to be grateful to the Arabs, to the white

hand [symbol of assistance] that was extended to it in time of need. [passage omitted]

America is in a situation of difficulty and distress. The Arab helping hand was extended to it. It should have kissed this hand, and the American President should have bowed to the Saudi king who handed out 6 billion [currency not specified] to America in an historic transaction that saved America from a crushing economic crisis.

Yesterday, Saudi Arabia concluded a transaction to the value of 6 billion dollars for the purchase of civil aircraft that Saudi Arabia does not need. However, the Arab legendary generosity made Saudi Arabia extend a helping hand to America at a difficult time.

The Americans should recognize the Saudi good deed, because it saved 100,000 American employees who were going to be made redundant and become beggars on the pavements of American streets. The 6 billion dollars confirmed 100,000 people in their jobs. These people were on the brink of becoming beggars. America should respond positively to the rank of the Saudi king whenever he requests anything from it. When he exerted every effort to mediate in the confrontation between Libya, America, Britain, and France, they rejected his mediation and did not meet his request, while he had done them favors and he has got influence. [passage omitted] It seems that our brothers in Saudi Arabia are implementing this noble saying of the prophet and consider that the American hand stretched out to them to beg for money needs to be helped.

We can only address the Islamic Conference Organization, that includes more than 40 Islamic countries, and tell them that Mecca is in a difficult situation because the Security Council resolutions were imposed on it. Muslims must be informed by the Libyans who were banned from pilgrimage for two or three years. Despite all this, we are showing patience and forgiveness. We are implementing Almighty God's saying: Let not detestation for a people who barred you from the holy mosque move you to commit aggression. Help one another to piety and Godfearing, do not help each other to sin and enmity.

This has become a fact: People have barred us from the holy mosque. These are Arabs: Those on the way and those who have the holy mosque on their land. This, like God said, should not push us to enmity and rupture with them.

We do take note of their difficult circumstances and their weakness in front of the U.S. monster. They acknowledge the dominance of Christianity and Judaism, and the alliance of the Zionist and the crusade. They are afraid that they might be the target of God's punishment, consequently, they put pressure on their Libyan brothers; they prevent them from visiting the holy places as a favor to satisfy the Christian states. [passage omitted]

I hope that such acts would not provoke you into attacking your brothers in Saudi Arabia, Sudan, or Egypt because these people have been targeted, and their turn will come to side with the West and the U.S. against Libya, they are forced to bow because of their circumstances. Regarding Egypt, its economic situation is a dire one, so one should not blame it; it needs a helping hand and support. It is being targeted, and there is a Zionist-Jewish-Christian plot to balkanize Egypt and divide it into several states; war has been declared against Egypt now, Egypt is being fought from within, in its streets. Orders are given from Tel Aviv, Washington, Paris, London, Bonn, and Berlin. Orders are given from Christian and Jewish capitals to destroy Egypt and Algeria.

Egypt's economic conditions do not allow it to oppose the United States during the current phase, therefore, we should unite with Egypt, support Egypt's economy, and take advantage from Egypt's backing for our economy; we should be strong to emerge from the phase of weakness to the phase of strength. Then and then only, Egypt can stand up to the United States and stand up to other countries.

As for Sudan, likewise its economic circumstances are very bad; war was declared against it from the south; they created poisonous insects for it, which they refer to in their language as (?Niania). They stressed that they should sow the poisonous insect in southern Sudan. You must have heard of Niania 1, Niania 2, and Niania 3. Every now and then a movement emerges in the south to destroy Sudan. This plot is being hatched by the Jews and the Christians to target Sudan, prevent unity between Egypt and Sudan, and weaken Sudan. Even Sudan is in a very difficult situation.

However, the country that is going through a completely different situation is your sister Saudi Arabia. Economically speaking, Saudi Arabia does not need the United States; the latter does not provide Saudi Arabia with any economic support. On the contrary, it is Saudi Arabia that is providing economic backing to the United States, as we all know. As you have witnessed, it has just supplied it with 6 billion dollars in return for planes that Saudi Arabia does not need.

If Saudi Arabia needed to rely on the United States to defend it, we would like to ask the following question: To defend it against whom? Now, Saudi Arabia claims that Iraq represents a danger against Saudi Arabia. If Saudi independence depends on U.S. forces, this kind of independence is a hollow one, because the United States can withdraw its forces at any time; and because there may be a U.S. Administration that does not agree with the principle of defending Saudi Arabia. Hence, Saudi Arabia should unite with Iraq.

If Kuwait independence depends on the presence of U.S. troops in the country, it should unite with Iraq, or with Saudi Arabia, or Jordan, or Libya.

Libya tells the truth, it says that the Libyan Army, with its artillery, tanks, or radar equipment, cannot fight NATO. Therefore, Libya stresses that the Arabs' strength lies in their unity. Libya's independence remains a fragile one as long as there is no Arab unity from the Atlantic to the Gulf. This unity will become a deterrent force against the greedy Western colonizers; we are used to their greed, aggression and lack of mercy.

We are saying...[pause] We are calling for immediate unity. We cannot rely on other forces. When the Soviet Union still existed, it made a request to set up military bases in Libya to protect Libya from the United States. We rejected that. We said that that was not acceptable: If our independence is dependent on your presence in our territory, that will not be independence. It would mean that we have sold independence. The other side will take us when you withdraw your forces. Therefore, this is not a solution. The solution lies in the unity of the Arab people.

We know that Saudi Arabia needs the United States in the military, political, and security spheres. However, the United States needs Saudi Arabia even more economically. What is preventing our brothers in Saudi Arabia from being bold with the United States. The United States should at least accept their views. We cannot accept this situation for our brothers in Saudi Arabia. We want our brothers in Saudi Arabia to have a voice in the West, to be heard, to have a standing, and able to threaten with gasoline and their deposits in the United States, Western countries and the companies that work there, and make thousands of billions in profit. [passage omitted]

In this time of revolutionary Islamic awakening—this revival in Libya, this renaissance, this return of awareness, the setting up of the Shura, the community system in the religious sense—this humbug and this nonsense by the Islamists has no place here.

Amazingly, after Zionism carried out these massacres [Hebron massacre] they want to reward it by lifting the economic boycott against it; and yesterday France goes to reach a military agreement with it Israel to supply it with weapons; and they besiege Iraq, and besiege Sudan, and besiege Syria, and besiege Libya, and forbid it to hold weapons. They want us to turn to stones and the Jews turn to weapons of mass destruction. Look! The Arabs are forbidden to buy weapons, technology is forbidden to them; while with the Jews, the Christian countries are competing to supply them with the most modern weapons. Yesterday, France signed an agreement with the Israelis in return for the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Look at this French agreement! Look at this blatant alliance in front of humanity between Christianity and Judaism against Muslims! If there was any nation with a conscience, it would break off relations with France, and punish and destroy France. In return for that, I heard that the people of Tobruk had decided that they would rather get their water on donkeys or on their backs, than accept a desalination plant that a

French company was to build for 28 million [currency not specified]. It is impossible—a French company—God is Great, Oh yes! Salutations to the inhabitants of Derna [corrects himself] to the inhabitants of Tobruk. [passage omitted]

France also even refused to solve its problem with Libya over its aircraft in solidarity with America and Britain. It said that we [words indistinct] solve our problem with Libya in solidarity with our brothers, the Americans and the English. Yesterday, they reached a military agreement with the Israelis, to support them militarily. And the Arabs continue to deal with France, except for the inhabitants of Tobruk. [passage omitted]

We celebrate this 'Id and we—many happy returns—and we have declared and legislated for the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah in all the matters covered by the rules of the Koran. Every single matter for which the Koran says the rule is thus, a law was issued and implemented in this country. Libya is thus implementing the Book of God and takes the path of the Prophet's practical traditions [sunna].

We who reject—and call on our brother to reject—the wrong and dangerous slogan of land for peace, address ourselves not to the governments—the governments are helpless—we address ourselves today to worshipers like you in any part of the Arab homeland to reject this dangerous slogan—land for peace—that gives the Israelis the right to occupy any Arab land and not withdraw from it unless they get what they want. This is a precedent: We occupy your land, we know its your land, we occupy it and will not leave until you recognize us. This is what happened.

Now they are telling Syria the Golan Heights is our land that we have occupied in 1967 and will not leave it unless you recognize us. America on her part said Israel has the right, imagine.

America demands from Lebanon, whose territory is occupied, to stop the fighting in the south of Lebanon. Syria, they have been saying, is a terrorist state because it did not act as a policeman to protect Israeli's northern borders. Imagine. [passage omitted]

Look at this injustice; the land for peace.

I am talking today at this place as an imam to the Muslims just like any other Muslim who led the Muslims at this day at any place be it in Mecca, in Madina, in al-Azhar, or at Hassan II Mosque, or anywhere in the Arab and Islamic homeland. Hence, we are not directing our words to the rulers because I am neither a ruler nor a president. I am at this hour an imam to those praying at this sacred place. We address our words to our Muslim brothers everywhere of the Arab and Islamic homeland with the Islamic spirit, the spirit of challenge and with this awareness and exposition of truths.

Everyone of us has become capable to firmly carry his arms and stand in defiance because he has become

aware. He has learned the triviality of the Christians and the Jews and their exposed alliance, and has learned the lie of human rights and learned the meaning of terrorism. Namely, he who defends his occupied land is a terrorist, and he who defends his honor is a terrorist, and he who defend his home is a terrorist. If this is terrorism then we are terrorists. If they were threatening us by cutting off the oil, we sincerely wish that the Western countries and America would force the Security Council to cut off oil exports from Libya and no one would buy Libyan oil. Then we would be without oil, without electricity, and without factories. What would we then be? We would be real fighters and underground terrorists like the Irish Republican Army, the Red Army, the Kurds, and the Vietnamese. We will appear from underground. He who has no factory is the brave one. He who has no electricity is the brave one. Look at the Irish Republican Army that has no factories and has nothing to worry about and has turned London international airport into flames. The main airport of Great Britain is in flames and for 48 hours was under bombardment from the Irish Republican Army. They could not fight it.

Neither the American missiles, nor the American aircraft carrier, nor Britain's fleets or air force could stop the bombardment on its main airport in London, like France's international airport. Britain is unable to find out the source of the bombardment, people from underground.

They want to turn us into real terrorists, we welcome this. The day we no longer have oil, we will abandon their false civilization and live under trees and in caves, then we will fight them (?for sure). They are turning us into real fighters, fair enough, we will be patient for so many years in order to fight them. Once we defeat them, we go back to building factories, roads, and anything else.

If they want to deprive us of oil, we welcome this because this will make us seek revenge and turn us into fighters. We will not have anything to fear anymore. We will be living in the bush. We will turn into tigers and lions.

This is true. We have talked about them, what Malik [leader of one of the four Sunni confessions] had said about wine; he rejected and outlawed it. The solution is to address praying people, Muslims, and citizens like us. May God...[interrupted by cheering masses] God is great. May God give us a firm foothold and make us victorious against the unfaithful. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Delivers 'Id al-Fitr Message

EA1303153794 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] President of the Republic Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has congratulated the Sudanese masses

on the coming of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, calling for adherence to solidarity, altruism and remembrance of God.

In his address to the citizens to mark the coming of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, his excellency referred to the oppression directed against Muslims in many parts of the Islamic world, particularly in Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the Serbs were murdering Muslims, helped by the conspiracy of international silence which prevents the Muslims from obtaining arms with which to defend themselves against Serbian aggression, while the Zionist criminals kill worshipers in Palestine without any regard for Islam. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said that in spite of that, hearts have not despaired of the mercy of God, for goodness still prevails in Muhamad's nation and in the ranks of the mujahedin fighting in God's cause who have come together to win victory for God's religion.

The president of the Republic praised the fighters of the armed forces and the People's Defense Forces for making great sacrifices in their efforts to bring security to the south of the country. He praised them for sheltering the deprived migrants whose property has been destroyed and whose children have been kidnapped, having been scorned in their efforts to uphold the unity and sovereignty of Sudan.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: We (?foresee) that peace will come soon by virtue of the efforts being made inside the country to secure the fearful, feed the hungry, and to repair what the war has destroyed; also by virtue of the mediation efforts being made by the African brothers to bring the parties to the negotiating table. On the occasion of the blessed auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, his excellency called for peace aspired to by the sons of Sudan at home with the help of friends and brothers.

Two Suspects Admit Participation in Mosque Attack

EA1203194494 Dakar PANA in English 1555 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Mar (PANA)—Two suspects in the bloody attack on the Ansar al-Sunnah mosque in Khartoum, on Friday [11 March] night confessed to the (?attack and said) that it was meant to eliminate Islamic leaders in Sudan. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khalifi and Muhammad al-Mahi told interrogators on Sudan television that their group, Takfir and Hijrah, believes that present day Muslims are "infidels". "All the contemporary Muslim society is infidel and has got to be fought including the leadership of all Sudanese fundamentalist groups," said Khalifi.

The attack on the mosque in Omdurman on 4 February claimed the lives of 19 worshipers and wounded others.

Khalifi said the attackers wanted the head of the Ansar al-Sunnah group, Zubayr Muhammad Hamzah, who led Friday prayers at the mosque. He said their hit-list

included a Muslim fundamentalist who was leader of the dissolved National Islamic Front, Hasan al-Turabi, and two leaders of the Muslim brotherhood, Hibir Yusuf and Sulayman Abu-Naru.

Khalifi was shown on television still suffering from injuries he sustained in the shoot-out with security forces on 5 February, in which two other assailants, Yasir Muhammad Api and 'Abd-al-Baqi Yusuf, were killed. He said their hit list also included veterans of the war in Afghanistan who lived and worked with an exiled Saudi businessman, Usamah Bin Ladin, whose villa the group also stormed.

Khalifi told an investigator that his group does not pray in mosques, "because the mosques of today are frequented by infidels". He said he is a descendant of a family that emigrated early this century from the desert area of Najd in today's Saudi Arabia and settled in Libya. He said that his father works for the Sirte Oil Company in Libya. Al-Mahi said Khalifi's two accomplices were originally members of the Ansar al-Sunnah group, who broke away because of "certain differences". Al-Mahi said he participated in the planning, but refused to take part in the assault "because it will destroy the image of our group".

He said they targeted the Ansar al-Sunnah mosque and the Islamic militant leaders "because these leaders did not declare war against Muslim mysticisms (sufi Moslems), who are seen by our group as enemies of Allah".

Worshippers at the Ansar al-Sunnah group also believe Muslim sufis are infidels. Asked why he did not report the plan to the police, he replied: "since the group believes all the society is infidel, we should not deal with or come in contact with any of its organizations, including the police."

The Ministry of the Interior, in a statement after the television interview, said that the suspects would be put on trial as soon as investigations were completed. It also promised to give them a fair trial.

Tunisia

Ben Ali, 'Arafat Discuss Message From U.S. Envoy

LD1103203194 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Regarding presidential activities, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at noon today at the Carthage Palace met with the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted].

President Yasir 'Arafat said that his meeting with His Excellency the President dealt with the deliberations of the UN Security Council regarding the massacre of the al-Ibrahimi mosque. In this connection he said that the fact that the Council has not adopted a resolution seriously affects the situation inside the occupied territories as a whole. He added that he had informed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the aspects of the message he received last night from the U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Warren Christopher which dealt with the importance of the continuation and movement forward of the peace process. President 'Arafat renewed in this regard the Palestinian stance which stresses the necessity of issuing a strong resolution by the Security Council which takes into account the issue of Jerusalem and the condemnation of the attack on the al-Ibrahimi mosque and the adoption of immediate international measures to protect the Palestinian people. Mr. Arafat said that he had thanked President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for the efforts he had made one more than one level to overcome these difficulties, hoping to arrive at a resolution that protect the Palestinian people from all attacks.

Russia's Kozyrev Arrives for Talks With 'Arafat

NC1103225494 Paris AFP in English 2100 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, March 11 (AFP)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived here Friday for talks with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat aimed at reviving the Middle East peace process.

Kozyrev, arriving from Israel, told reporters he was bringing "certain ideas" and an important message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, but did not give details. He would stay in Tunis for several hours.

"I have come to express our support and determination to prevent the enemies of peace from undermining the efforts" to keep the peace talks going, Kozyrev said, before meeting 'Arafat.

"It is a question now of focusing efforts to save the peace process," he added.

Kozyrev was also expected to meet Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia.

Officials said 'Arafat earlier discussed the peace process with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The PLO leader deplored the UN Security Council's failure to adopt a resolution condemning the Hebron massacre and calling for the deployment of an international force in the occupied territories.

The delay was having "a very serious negative impact on the whole situation" in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, 'Arafat said after the meeting.

Kozyrev held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Jerusalem Friday, during which Rabin called on the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace talks, Russia and the United States, to work together to revive the peace process.

However, Israeli state radio said a Russian proposal to stage a new Middle East peace conference was not discussed during Kozyrev's talks with Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The proposal was announced by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov Wednesday, after a Middle East tour during which he met twice with 'Arafat, as well as with Rabin and Peres.

Moscow has argued that the February 25 massacre of 30 Arab worshipers by a Jewish settler in Hebron has derailed the negotiating process and that another international conference is needed, along the lines of the 1991 Madrid conference which launched the peace process.

Kuwait

Ambassador To Return to Qatar After Ramadan

NC1203220494 Paris AFP in English 2150 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Kuwait City, March 12 (AFP)—The Kuwaiti ambassador to Qatar is to return to his post after having been recalled recently amid strengthening ties between Qatar and Iraq, a Sunday paper reported here.

The daily AL-QABAS said in its Sunday edition that Muhammad al-Rumi would return to Doha after celebrations for the end of Ramadan, the Moslem month of fasting.

The paper said, quoting the Kuwaiti foreign ministry, that al-Rumi had been recalled for talks after television reports in Doha on the situation in Iraq and the impact of a UN-imposed embargo.

Kuwait recalled al-Rumi in mid-February and protested to the Qatar government for allowing the official television to give airtime to Iraqi leaders.

Apart from Oman, which never broke off links with Iraq, Qatar is the only member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to have renewed ties with Baghdad since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 which sparked the Gulf war.

United Arab Emirates

Yemen President Holds Talks With Zayid

JN1103213494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], have held a closed session at al-Musharraf Palace in Abu Dhabi.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA, has learned that the two presidents discussed issues and developments of interest to the relations between the two brotherly countries and ways of enhancing them. They also discussed developments in the Arab arena and the efforts of the two fraternal countries to restore Arab solidarity.

During the meeting, the brother president briefed his brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, on developments in Yemen in light of the signing of the accord document and the efforts under way to contain the political crisis in our country. He also briefed him on the successes by the joint military committee in stopping the regrettable military developments. He further expressed his appreciation for the brothers, including the brothers in the UAE, for their support for our people in overcoming the challenges imposed by the political crisis and their support for Yemeni unity.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in Abu Dhabi at 2100 Sanaa local time today leading a high-level delegation on a brotherly visit to the fraternal UAE. He is to meet with his brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, for talks on fraternal relations and ways of enhancing them. They will also discuss developments in the regional, Arab, and international arenas, as well as issues of interest to our Arab nation, primarily ways to clear the Arab atmosphere and restore Arab solidarity, and issues of common interest. The brother president will also brief his brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, on the developments in our country and the efforts being made to contain the current political crisis and implement the accord document. The purpose of this is to end the crisis, safeguard unity and democracy, and bolster stability in our country.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, led those who received the brother chairman of the Presidential Council at Abu Dhabi Airport. He gave the brother chairman a warm brotherly hug and welcomed him. [passage omitted]

Upon arrival at Abu Dhabi Airport, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council made a statement to the UAE mass media. He said: Our visit to the sisterly UAE tonight gives me personally an opportunity to meet with dear brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, the UAE president, and to hold consultations with him on all that is related to the intimate relations between the two sisterly countries. These distinguished relations are testified to by the projects that have been carried out by the UAE in Yemen, projects that prove the deep relations of amity among the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. Our Yemeni people will always highly appreciate the stand of Shaykh Zayid and the sons of his generous people in the UAE and their contribution to our development process and support for the unity of Yemen. [words indistinct] a living example of the deep sisterly relations between the two peoples. During the visit, I will brief my honorable brother, Shaykh Zayid, on the developments of the situation in our country in light of the signing of the pledge and accord document and the efforts being exerted to begin implementing it on the basis of reviving the Constitutional and executive institutions and cooperation among all parties to the government coalition—the General Peoples's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. This will ensure putting an end to the political crisis, containing its regrettable repercussions, consolidating unity, and maintaining the democratic experience in our country. In this regard, we cannot do without the efforts and role of the brothers in the UAE, led by His Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, who has taken honorable pan-Arab stands in support of Yemeni unity, which is a pan-Arab gain for the Arab nation and a significant factor for bolstering regional security, stability, and peace. We are also looking forward to a greater UAE role at the current stage in view of the his Highness Shaykh Zayid's special

status in the hearts of the sons of Yemen and for his known wisdom and pan-Arab concern to serve the Arab nation's objectives and supreme interests. Undoubtedly, our talks in the UAE will deal with ways of clearing the Arab atmosphere of all impurities that have stuck to it as a result of the regrettable Gulf crisis. We will also be discussing ways of restoring Arab solidarity, especially since His Highness Shaykh Zayid initiated the call for healing the rift, closing Arab ranks, and restoring Arab solidarity. We in the Republic of Yemen have supported this pan-Arab initiative. We will do our best along with our brothers to achieve this objective.

Yemen

President Calls for Talks To Resolve Crisis

NC1203191694 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, March 12 (AFP)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih Saturday urged the people of Yemen to oppose any attempt to divide the country, calling for talks to resolve its seven-month-old political crisis.

In a national address marking the end of the Moslem fasting month of Ramadan, he said: "We must not tolerate any attempts to break the country's unity or to provoke sedition or war."

North and South Yemen were unified in May 1990, but a crisis broke out in August when Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner, refused to take up his duties in Sanaa, demanding major political and economic reforms.

Salih, a northerner, added: "Those who think Yemen's problems can be solved by dividing (the country) are wrong."

He called for talks to resolve all differences with al-Bid, his main political rival.

Tensions have been building in Yemen in recent weeks between rival north and south armies, despite a February 20 reconciliation accord.

Vows To Protect Unity

JN1203194994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 94

["Text" of message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the eve of 'Id al-Fitr in Sanaa on 12 March; read by announcer—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We had hoped that with the advent of 'Id al-Fitr our country would have emerged from the crisis and so redouble our joy over the signing of the accord document on 10 Ramadan in the Jordanian capital under the auspices of His Majesty King Husayn. However, we have not lost hope that the crisis will soon blow over so the state's constitutional institutions may

again become active with the participation and cooperation of the partners in the coalition government to implement the document, ease the burden on the population, and build the modern Yemeni state on modern foundations that will ensure the sovereignty of law and order, enhance the role of institutions, nurture respect for constitutional legitimacy, respect the will of the people, and be bound by the principle of a peaceful and democratic rotation of power.

In this effort, we must emphasize our commitment to inviolable and sacred national parameters, notably unity and democracy. Unity is the source of the people's strength and is a guarantee for stability, advancement, and national prosperity.

On this occasion, we renew the call for all disagreements, contradictions, and problems to be ironed out through the channels of democratic, objective, and sober dialogue, and reason and wisdom. The homeland is not the exclusive property of any one individual, party, or group. Nor has anyone the right to claim custodianship over unity, the people, or any part of the homeland. Unity is our people's communal property. We will not squander our unity no matter what the price. He is in error who thinks that the solutions to problems lay in undermining unity or taking the homeland back to the era preceding 22 May, 1990. The wheels of history have moved forward and will not turn backward. The solution lay in rectifying behavior and mistakes and taking a determined stand against all kinds of corruption and the embezzlement of public money, the due process of law, accountability, putting the general good of the homeland before narrow or party interests, dissociation from parochial affiliations, and desisting from stoking regional, tribal, and other tendencies. The yardstick by which faith in the unity of the homeland must be measured is action to advance the unity of the people. This is because no homeland cannot remain united unless its citizens share a common will and unless their loyalty to their respective parties or regions takes second place to their loyalty to their homeland. The homeland is a trust that we must keep; the protection of unity is a sacred national duty. None of us should take lightly any attempt to tear up our country's unity or plunge it into sedition or war. It is an unforgivable crime for a Yemeni to kill his Yemeni brother or for Yemeni blood to be shed by Yemeni hands. Therefore, it is every Yemeni patriot's sacred duty to speak up against whatever may heighten tension or trigger armed conflict.

Brother Citizens: My visit to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates during the last week of the holy month of Ramadan was an opportunity for me to meet with brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The talks I had there were positive and useful both for our bilateral ties and for joint pan-Arab action. The two brotherly countries emphasized their full support for Yemen's unity and deep concern for its security. We deeply appreciate

Egypt and the UAE and other Arab brothers for their brotherly stands and the way they relate to our country's concerns.

In the name of all our people, on this happy occasion, I send my greetings to all our Armed and Security Forces personnel, who have consistently proved up to the sacred national responsibility, which they are shouldering with courage, devotion, and patience. They shall always watch over our unity, freedom, and democracy and faithfully stand guard over our national sovereignty and all the gains scored by the people. To the best of their ability, they shall distance themselves from all political differences and disputes. This is because by staying loyal to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity, they thus remain above all partisan differences and disputes.

I repeat my congratulations on the 'Id. God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Vice Chairman Comments on 'Anti-Arab' Scheme

NC1303085194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT
13 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council and leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has warned that an anti-Arab scheme is being planned to spread terrorism and extremism with a view to harming the ambitions of the Arab and Islamic nation and isolating it from the rest of the world.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, al-Bid says that the features of this terrorist scheme are clear to all, and its threat extends to a number of Arab countries.

He called for confronting the scheme by bringing it up for discussion at the pan-Arab level. He said the backward mentalities that want to impose their control on the Arab and Islamic nation must be confronted.

Al-Bid welcomed any Arab effort to steer unified Yemen clear of the specter of civil war and help the country to continue its democratic and peaceful march and adhere to the Pledge and Accord Document on national reconciliation.

He praised the efforts of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak to contain the Yemeni crisis. He said Egypt, by virtue of its relations with and assistance to Yemen, can play an effective role on the Yemeni scene.

On the situation in Yemen, al-Bid said: From experience, we have come to realize that Yemen had neither the right circumstances nor the suitable leadership for unity of action in the past.

Some believed the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document ended the crisis, but this is wrong; the signing meant only that we acknowledged the crisis and laid down the bases to resolve it, he said.

"The situation requires that we move toward implementation in the appropriate circumstances," he added.

On fears that a military confrontation may break out in Yemen, al-Bid said there are such fears, and the Military Committee needs help from Arab forces—especially Egypt, which is the closest Arab country to us—so that a civil war can be avoided.

Prime Minister To Ask Cabinet To Meet in Aden

NC1203071994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT
11 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Yemeni Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has announced that he will address a final invitation to the cabinet to meet in Aden after the 'Id al-Fitr holiday to discuss ways to implement the Pledge and Accord Document that was signed in Jordan and has not been implemented yet.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM's Saturday edition, he said an invitation will also be sent to the National Dialogue Committee to meet in Aden after the 'Id al-Fitr holiday to continue the dialogue, which stopped after a number of its participants withdrew because of escalating squabbles, the mass media's stand, and military clashes between the armed forces of the General People's Congress in Sanaa and the Socialist Party's forces in the border governorates in Abyan, Abb, (Ta'izz), and Lahij.

He expressed hopes that the crisis will be resolved and noted the need for all the parties to cooperate to achieve this end.

Al-'Attas emphasized that terrorism has serious effects on Yemen and on the Arab countries to which this terrorism is exported. He said he does not approve of any terrorist act directed from his country at fraternal Egypt or other Arab countries.

YSP Official on Clashes, Accord, Gulf Tour

JN1203174994 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 7 Mar 94
p 27

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by unidentified AL-WASAT reporter "during his stopover in Abu Dhabi;" date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] How do you interpret the clashes and security incidents that occurred immediately after the signing of the Accord and Pledge Document? Does it mean that a major defect is still there?

[Muhammad] First, I would like to briefly explain that the conflict in Yemen has not ended. It is common knowledge that this conflict is taking place between two major orientations. The first is leading a drive for modernization, building the institutions and the state of law and order, and creating a system of domestic and foreign relations. The basis of this orientation is the

emerging democracy and its ideas. Democracy has become one of the phenomena of the age. The first orientation aspires for change, leaving the 20th century and entering the next century, and creating new circumstances for the coming generations. The second orientation is the conservative orientation, represented by the General People's Congress, the Reform Grouping, and their allies. Those supporting this orientation are ready to do anything to maintain the current situation and the existing system. In sum, they want to return Yemen to the situation which existed in the former Yemeni Arab Republic. Hence, this orientation views changes and evolution with fear and caution. They fear that they might lose certain interests, which they grabbed after they controlled the existing institutions, especially the tribal and military institutions. Therefore, they do not want to permit the emergence of civilian institutions in accordance with a modern democratic system.

[Reporter] What has made matters often escalate to a military confrontation, and sometimes to security disorder?

[Muhammad] There has been systematic and premeditated terrorism. Terrorist operations have been prearranged. Assassinations, explosions, highway robberies, lootings, rapes, and other forms of terrorism occurred. Moreover, these operations took a serious turn and began to include domestic and foreign investments. Besides, foreign experts have been kidnapped and companies, especially oil companies, have been threatened. Tourists and foreign embassies have been threatened. The main objective is to destroy the unity process, abort democracy, and hinder any attempt for change. This is in order to maintain their control of the country and to bring everybody under their authority.

[Reporter] Do you believe that a final solution has been provided by the signing of the document, or is the country and its unity still in danger?

[Muhammad] Let us be frank, certain parties inside the General People's Congress and the Reform Grouping are not satisfied with the document. Their signing of it does not mean that everything will proceed well. Some influential parties reject the contents of the document. This explains the continued military confrontations and military incidents. Those parties will continue their attempts to exacerbate the security situation and create problems in order to keep people preoccupied, evade

implementation of the document, and, at the same time, put the blame on us. This is evidenced by the fact that the other party has no desire or intention to take to justice those people involved in cases of assassinations and explosions, they have no intention of making reforms, and they continue military provocations.

[Reporter] Some say that al-Bid's failure to come to Sanaa gives the other side a justification for not implementing the document?

[Muhammad] I want to ask: Who guarantees al-Bid's life if he goes to Sanaa? Who can go to Sanaa when he feels that his head is wanted? We say that they must implement all items of the document before al-Bid goes to Sanaa. The guarantee is implementation of all clauses of the document, especially since we are still witnessing assassinations, houses and offices being blown up, and other practices which cannot be approved by any norms or laws whatsoever.

[Reporter] Do you deem the signed agreement an absolute guarantee for maintaining unity and removing the threat of separation? What are the external effects on the situation in Yemen?

[Muhammad] The agreement is not a medical prescription. Having it signed does not mean that it has become the only guarantee for maintaining unity. The threat of separation is still there. Although the agreement has been signed, nothing has changed yet. This agreement provides guidelines and programs which need political will to be implemented. They also require balanced internal and external support. This is what we are trying to do through our recent and current tours. We want a presence by our brothers in Arab Gulf states. This covers, for example, neighboring states, such as Saudi Arabia and Oman, as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council states. Eritrea, Egypt, Syria, and then the Arab League and the world, such as the United States, some European countries, and even Russia are also needed. These countries can help Yemen's peaceful unity process. This is because we have common interests. Besides, we must reassure our neighbors that our unity does not threaten them if it is based on reason, good-neighborliness, good relations, and cooperation. Why should our relations with our neighbors not be excellent? It is not in our interest to be anyone's enemy. This is what we believe in and work to see happen. Hence our tours.

Saddam Criticizes U.S., UN in 13 Mar Speech

JN1303214694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1908 GMT 13 Mar 94

["Full text" of "valuable and important" speech by President Saddam Husayn on 13 March; place not given]

[Text] Many happy returns to you, your people, your families, and your ministries' employees. There is always great hope that you and your brother workers will make your people really feel that everyday you extend to them a higher level of service than others in the same circumstances could offer them.

Among the things that we know is the fact that when one supposes that he has done his best and cannot offer a higher level of service he will stop both his intellectual development and the introduction of new challenges or incentives for himself. In this country, the state of Iraq—knowing that you are its ministers—such a feeling should be unknown to us all. We should feel satisfied—should anything we do actually call for satisfaction—with what we have offered, along with the strong feeling that we can offer something still better in quality and taking into account the calculations of quantity or numbers.

The circumstances of your people are difficult. They have been imposed on us by the unjust despot. Leading those who are taking the position of doing harm to and premeditated malice against the Iraqi people are the United States and Zionism. The blockade has been continuing for four years, that is since the cease-fire went into effect after a decision made by the former U.S. President on 28 February 1991. We have thus far dealt with the Security Council resolutions as part of the diplomatic efforts and what they suggest in terms of possibilities designed to overcome any obstacle and deal with the unfair resolutions in a way that achieves a better level of understanding by the Security Council.

We hoped, and perhaps we expected or rather many people in our country and the world expected that this level of dealings on the part of Iraq, although the resolutions are unfair and unjust and carry a measure of premeditated malice by known people in the Security Council who have an effective role in passing the resolutions, including the United States, would realize a level of achievement—despite the unfair resolutions—that would make some people, whose hearts have no feeling, show a flexible position and open the doors again to the Iraqi people so they can live in freedom, as they should.

However, others were quite convinced that the criminal level of the aggression and the way sanctions were implemented on Iraq, including the embargo resolution, came from minds without any conscience.

Therefore, despite Iraq's offers and responses, those concerned will discover that there is nothing being given in return. Besides, what was talked about in terms of Security Council obligations is nothing more than a

tactical cover to make Iraq fulfill its obligations without the Security Council having to fulfill its own obligations. This is because members of the Security Council do not have enough freedom to say what they want to say. Moreover, the Security Council does not have standards based on fairness and justice because there are those who oppose such standards and can influence them in the opposite direction.

As I have repeatedly said, there is a daily instigator that encourages America and Zionism to conspire against the Arab nation. According to the treasonous and tendentious ones, Iraq is among the first against whom they should conspire. This is because of Iraq's stand toward the principles which make the Arab nation gain more honor—after it further enhances its honor based on our nation's inherited high standards and behavior. Iraq is working in this direction and is known for its stand on entrenching these values.

Everyday one commission comes and another one goes. They have destroyed the weapons, the plants, and the factories they wanted to destroy—apart from what had already been destroyed by their warplanes and missiles. They got all the information they asked for. They said they wanted future guarantees before fulfilling their obligations toward Iraq. Despite this, Iraq agreed on the so-called long-term monitoring.

All the resolutions that deal with Iraq's obligations were implemented according to the sequence set by the Security Council and in accordance with the priorities of these resolutions. Despite all this, they still tell Iraqi diplomats that if you did this then it will be possible to lift the embargo or at least implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. We mean section C of Resolution 687.

After the initial resolutions, they issued a series of resolutions, some of which do not represent the essence of the initial resolutions. At times, the latter resolutions were even in contradiction with some paragraphs of the initial resolutions, on which the conditions for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and Iraq's compliance with the destruction of the so-called weapons of mass destruction were built. This includes Resolution 715. At last, we asked: What is left? They said: Only this resolution, no. 715, is left. As soon as you approve it, we will write a report to the UN Security Council. We said: Iraq's obligations have been fulfilled, you should fulfill yours, starting with the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. In short, this paragraph provides for allowing Iraq to export its products, chiefly oil. Iraq said: We are not convinced that this resolution should be discussed now. We should work in accordance with the sequence of the clauses of Resolution 687 and its mutual obligations. However, we approved that resolution in order to end our people's suffering. They responded: What? No. First, we will start monitoring and make sure that Iraq is implementing it the way we want—the way Ekeus wants—in order to make sure that Iraq is committed. Afterward, we will consider submitting a report to the UN Security Council so that it would look into

Paragraph 22. Well, we asked, when will you start? You have already started monitoring, have you not? What is monitoring? Does it require anything more than installing cameras? We asked: In your assessment, how long would this process take? You have already started it. The cameras are installed and recording. We said: Fine, when will you start to count time? Ekeus said the operation may take six months. After he departed, he said that some say six months, some say one year. Who are those some? Well, when will we start? What about those months that you have already spent monitoring? Are not they counted? When will you tell us that you have started, so that we can start counting? How long do you need? Three months, four months, six months? When can we say, for example, one or two months have passed, four months to go? This is needed so that the Iraqi people will be able to make their plans, see what they can do, and prepare themselves psychologically and economically for the required duration. He kept coming and going, everyday emerging with statements without a clear specification of the time after which the implementation of Paragraph 22 can start.

Well, how long will the Iraqi people wait, and how can they accept the diplomacy of the fox of the jungle? We and the Iraqi people have spent much time hearing this and contacting and seeing people. It is their right to choose alternatives if they discover that this way will not lead to a positive result that can save them from this injustice or put them in a better position to be able to deal with life without this injustice; namely, the blockade and the parallels imposed on northern and southern Iraq.

On this occasion, the Security Council says in one of its resolutions that it is obliged to do everything that will secure Iraq's sovereignty. Isn't that true, specialists? Well, where is Iraq's sovereignty? It is the Security Council's permanent member states that imposed these parallels in violation of Iraq's sovereignty. They issue resolutions but they do not apply them when it comes to their obligations and they even violate them in public.

Deputy Prime Minister comrade Tariq 'Aziz is scheduled to leave for the UN Security Council. He will clearly explain to them that we have fulfilled our obligations. According to logic and fair and just treatment, they have to fulfill their obligations. If they do not implement their obligations now, they will not have the simplest excuse with which to cover their delay. They should implement Provision 22 immediately and without any conditions.

If comrade Tariq 'Aziz returns without obtaining the Security Council's agreement to meet its obligations and if there is no hope that the injustice will be lifted from the Iraqi people, then the Iraqi people and their leadership can do nothing else but decide what they believe will give them hope, God willing, in the direction they believe is sound. Therefore, the ministers should take steps to prolong their people's patience as much as much possible and to speed up efforts to achieve as much public service as possible. Rely on God.

'Aziz Visit to UN Reportedly 'Postponed' to 15 Mar

JN1203193394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] The visit which Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was expected to pay to the UN headquarters in New York today has been postponed until 15 March. The purpose of the visit is to hold a new round of talks on removing Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid, head of Iraq's Military Industrialization Organization; and Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, are scheduled to join these talks. A UN source said the first round of talks which 'Aziz will hold with Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN commission in charge of destroying the Iraqi arms arsenal, will be held on Wednesday.

Foreign Ministry: 'Interference' of Operation Condemned

JN1103220394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

On 10 March, senior officials representing the governments of the United States, Britain, France, and Turkey met in Ankara to discuss the so-called Operation Provide Comfort for Kurds, as well as the situation in northern Iraq.

The representatives of these countries issued a press statement in which they allowed themselves to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. They have also launched lies and allegations, full of fallacies, about Iraq's domestic situation, in an attempt to distort facts that are no longer a secret to world public opinion.

We strongly condemn this blatant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs by the parties that met in Ankara. The deteriorating situation and the spread of crime and looting and killing in the governorates of al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Dahuk are caused by the illegal and illegitimate action carried out by the governments of these four countries when they imposed, by brute force, a no-fly zone in northern Iraq. They have also encouraged rebel gangs to tamper with the region.

The official Foreign Ministry spokesman added: Respecting Iraq's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity has one expression, namely, stopping the interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and lifting the illegal and illegitimate ban on flights in northern Iraq imposed by the governments of these states.

The official spokesman denounced the fact that the press statement issued by the representatives of the four countries addressed the internal situation in Iraq and spoke about it in the language of a custodian. The spokesman said: Iraq strongly condemns this rude attempt and

thinks that the press statement issued in Ankara reflects the true interventionist policy pursued by the Government of the United States and its allies against Iraq and the region.

The official Foreign Ministry spokesman asserted that the Iraqi leadership and people will not allow any party to interfere in their domestic affairs and that all attempts by the governments of the countries that seek to perpetuate the abnormal situation prevailing in northern Iraq will definitely fail. Our Kurdish people in Iraq will be the first to defeat these attempts.

On the stand of the Turkish Government, the official spokesman said that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has cautioned the Turkish side through a number of official memorandums declaring that Turkey's participation in the illegitimate and illegal actions of the Americans and their allies in northern Iraq contravenes the relations of good-neighborliness and runs totally counter to the UN Charter, international law and the Iraqi-Turkish border treaty of 1926.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has also frequently notified the Turkish side that Turkey's problems should not be tackled by depending on the abnormal situation created by the Americans and their allies in northern Iraq and dealing with outlawed rebels who are wreaking havoc in the region. We also cautioned our Turkish neighbors against the gravity of double policies and double-dealing. We told them that such policies cannot but cause more difficulties and gravely harm Turkey's interests as well as Iraq's, especially since the Americans and their allies care about nothing but their selfish interests and wicked ambitions in the region. They will neither respect Turkey's nor anybody else's interests.

SAIRI Appeals for Action To Stop Regime's Offensive

NC1203162394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] In light of the large scale barbaric attack launched by tyrant Saddam's forces in the past few days on the marshlands of the governorates of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah in south Iraq, a responsible source in the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has stated the following:

The forces of the tyrant Saddam's regime launched a sweeping barbaric attack in the past few days on south Iraq's marshlands in the Governorates of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah. Four divisions were used in the attack. Reports from SAIRI sources in south Iraq have confirmed that this large attack was launched on several fronts in the direction of the residential areas and villages of the marshlands triangle in the al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah Governorates. The tyrant's forces prepared for this attack with intensive artillery shelling of the residential areas of the marshlands, killing and wounding dozens of civilians who fled in panic from their villages and houses and are now living among the

reeds without food, water, or medicine. The regime's forces are continuing to chase the fleeing citizens by firing their long-range artillery on them at random.

Citizens coming from these areas have confirmed that the regime's forces are continuing their acts of destruction and burning in the areas of (Nahr Salih), (Abu Julian), al-Dal'ah, al-Badriyah, [words indistinct], (Abu Jawlanah), (Abu Subat), (Abu al-Nirki), and (al-Sihabi). The afflicted families fled deep into the marshlands where they are now suffering from thirst and hunger due to shortages of food and water.

The SAIRI reports added that the Republican Guards forces remain in a state of maximum alert and deployed on the edges of the marshlands in preparation for launching a still larger attack than the current one. The reports also said that criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, tyrant Saddam's defense minister, personally led the current offensive from the former headquarters of the 11th Division which lies between the areas of Umm al-Shuwayj and (al-Khuyut) in the (al-Mudaynah) Governorate.

Tyrant Saddam's regime aims with this barbaric crime to implement a new stage in its infernal scheme to destroy the marshlands areas completely and turn them into a desert not fit for habitation and to force its people who have been living there since the dawn of history to leave so that the regime can have full control of these areas which are known as centers of steadfastness and resistance to Saddam's regime and his criminal gang. The Saddam regime's real war of genocide against an historic area known for its human civilization constitutes a blatant challenge to the will of the international community and the UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 688 of 8 April 1991, which prohibits the Iraqi regime from suppressing the civilians of Iraq. This is a direct and grave threat to security, peace, and stability in the region and the world. The current situations in southern Iraq's marshland areas have reached the stage where it has become difficult to remain silent or maintain the position of spectator. Hence, we call on the international community, its bodies, its humanitarian organizations, and its media to condemn the barbaric aggressive action of Saddam's regime and to support the Iraqi people in its tribulation.

A responsible SAIRI source has also appealed to the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, to act quickly to take measures to stop the genocide being waged against the inhabitants of the marshlands, especially as the Security Council and other UN organizations have the documents and evidence that confirm that the marshland areas are being subjected to a real war of genocide. This was also confirmed by the reports of the rapporteur of human rights in Iraq [words indistinct] who has repeatedly called for sending UN observers to Iraq to monitor human rights violations in this country.

The source said: We call on the Security Council to implement the rapporteur's report and to speed up the

dispatch of inspection and observer teams to the marshlands and south Iraq where there is an urgent and persistent need for them more than ever since there is no security for the civilian citizens as a result of the oppression, campaigns of annihilation, killings, and the economic and military siege. He added: We appeal to the Security Council to compel the Iraqi regime to comply with and implement the clauses of Resolution 688, the most important of which is the clause on stopping the suppression of civilians. As previous experiences have shown, this regime complies with the Security Council only when it is forced and coerced to do so because it has rebelled against the international will and does not respect the laws and norms approved by international law. We also call on all the world humanitarian organizations, especially relief organizations, to act quickly to relieve the inhabitants of the marshlands in the south and declare our readiness to cooperate with these organizations so as to get food, medicine, clothes, and other relief to the afflicted citizens.

On this occasion, we address our appeal to the countries and governments of the Arab and Islamic world and to all the Muslim brothers in the world to condemn the Saddam regime's savage actions against their Arab and Muslim brothers in south Iraq, show solidarity with them, and to give them succor.

Intelligence Post Reportedly Attacked; 7 Killed

NC1103151194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The mujahidin of our Islamic revolution staged a lightning attack on the Saddamist intelligence services' post near the bridge leading to the Umm al-Ni'aj marshland. The post was destroyed and seven of the regime's henchmen were killed in this heroic attack. The mujahidin seized a quantity of ammunition and light weapons and returned safely to base.

Rationale Behind U.S. Embargo Stance Examined

JN1303113094 Baghdad AL-IRAQ in Arabic 8 Mar 94 pp 1, 6

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi: "The Embargo and the Aggression; A Look Into What has Happened, and Into Available Options"]

[Text] On 6 August 1990, and per Resolution 661, the UN Security Council imposed an economic embargo against Iraq. Paragraph 1 of the resolution states in no uncertain terms that the resolution shall go into effect if Iraq does not honor the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 2 of UN Security Council Resolution 660 of 2 August 1990, which calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. From a legal point of view, this means that the fact that Iraqi troops were withdrawn from Kuwait requires the world to revoke the economic embargo clamped on Iraq, because the (apparent) reasons and justifications for instituting the embargo in the first place have been removed and the root cause of the

conflict has been resolved by this very troop withdrawal. Nonetheless, the United States has not allowed the UN Security Council to simply stop at the limits of its relevant resolutions. For, since 26 February 1991, when Iraq, of its own volition and in accordance with its own strategic calculations, decided to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, these resolutions should have been relegated to oblivion. Since then, the United States has continued to pursue Iraq, even after the halt to hostilities and after a cease-fire came into effect. It forced the UN Security Council to pass Resolution 687, which contains the terms of a cease-fire between Iraq and the hostile military coalition that carried out the aggression.

On 1 March 1991, a new phase in the U.S. policy on Iraq was heralded. Since then, the United States has exploited the international changes in the aftermath of the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact to continue to pursue Iraq politically and economically, and to intervene in its domestic affairs. This is because the United States was not content with the colossal damage it caused to Iraq and with the immense strategic and financial gains it made in the form of cash payments from Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, or in the form of sales and investment contracts it has concluded with the Arabian Gulf regimes. The United States is not content with all this. It believes that the continued pursuit of the Iraqi political regime, which has held out against U.S. aggression and colonialist policies, is the basic guarantee to safeguard these gains. It also believes that the continued pursuit of a policy aimed at subjugating and dominating the Middle Eastern regimes that took part in the anti-Iraq aggression requires a weak and "powerless Iraq."

That is why the Americans have moved the goalposts and fabricated pretexts and excuses to perpetuate the embargo and thwart efforts to lift it, either partially or entirely.

Early on, when the U.S. arms scandal known as Irangate, surfaced during the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraqi leadership realized that the United States does not want a powerful Iraq. It has done, and is still doing, all it can to weaken Iraq, either through the continuation of the war with Iran or through fabricating excuses and pretexts to attack it militarily, in cooperation with the Zionist entity, in order to destroy the components of its industrial and military renaissance. This approach became clear after Iraq achieved its decisive victory over Iran, thus putting an end to the eight-year war.

Iraq's awareness of the intentions of the United States and the Zionist entity and their schemes, has prompted Iraq to react in a manner aimed to foil the U.S.-Zionist schemes against Iraq and its national and pan-Arab regime. Therefore, the struggle has continued because Iraq has adhered to its territorial integrity and independence and has opposed attempts at encroaching on its sovereignty, represented by the exclusion zones and attempts by the inspection committees of the Special Commission to exceed the limits of their missions in

Iraq. Iraq has also rejected every proposal that could harm the dignity of Iraq and its people. Therefore, threats to mount aggression continued and Iraq was exposed to two treacherous aggressions on 13 January 1993 and on 27 June 1993.

In addition to Iraq's steadfastness and obvious political stand, the Iraqi leadership has continued to conduct itself in a logical, clear, legal, and principled manner, enabling Iraqi diplomacy to present its case in a clear and flexible way that has won it a respectable position in the UN lobbies and in world public opinion. Iraq has not been obstinate in its stand toward the Security Council and its unjust resolutions despite the fact that as originally claimed, these resolutions were connected with Iraq's presence in Kuwait, a matter that was decided when Iraqi units withdrew from Kuwait. Iraq completely implemented the Security Council's demands as enunciated in its resolutions, especially Resolution No. 687 related to the chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, and missiles with a range exceeding 150 km. Iraq also agreed to abide by the contents of Resolution 715 related to the future monitoring of weapons manufacturing.

One after another, the inspection committees reaffirmed that Iraq extended assistance and facilities to enable them to carry out their missions after they themselves adhered to their limits and respected Iraq's dignity and requirements of sovereignty. There are no commitments remaining for Iraq to implement. Therefore, the Security Council, in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution No. 687, should announce that Iraq has implemented what it was asked to implement and that the ban on basic commodity imports and on exports of Iraqi-source products and the ban on financial transactions connected with Iraq as stated in Resolution 661 of 1990 are now invalid as clearly stipulated in Paragraph 22.

Iraq has also been able to avert attempts to "develop" the U.S. conditions and reacted with evidence and documents against these attempts. The latest U.S. setback was represented by the announcement of the special investigation committee on the use of chemical weapons in southern Iraq, in which the committee found no evidence to support claims that Iraq has used such weapons.

The Americans now have no excuse or any logical justification left to convince anyone. The discussion on Iraq between the head of the Europe and the Middle East subcommittee of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, is a clear indication of the total lack of reason in the U.S. Administration's rationale. Pelletreau stated that "the international alliance continues to be firm in supporting the Iraqi embargo," that "the embargo helps put pressure on the Iraqi government," and that "in any case, Iraq continues to violate all Security Council resolutions, and therefore, the conditions for lifting sanctions on this or that issue is too early to consider and should not be discussed."

Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Hamilton asked the assistant secretary of state: What is required from Iraq in order to lift oil embargo? Pelletreau replied: I am hesitant to give a reply because this is premature as long as Iraq has not done anything in the first place.

Hamilton replied with another question: Does the U.S. Administration want something more than abidance by the UN resolutions on the destruction of weapons of mass destruction before lifting the oil embargo?

Pelletreau answered: This subject concerns the allied states as a whole, and I want to say that I am not sure that it is wise to start discussing the subject of when to lift the embargo.

Hamilton said: I have a big problem in understanding what is required from Iraq in order to secure the lifting of the oil embargo. If I have such a big problem, it is possible that Iraq also has a problem in understanding your position.

Pelletreau failed to specify what is required from Iraq after the resolutions it implemented, and he emphasized the importance of maintaining the unity of the alliance. Hamilton asked: How can we maintain the alliance's unity if we do not have a clear position? How can we convince the other members of the alliance if you are unable to convince me of what Iraq should do to secure the lifting of the oil embargo?

This is an example of the discussions taking place in the United States. Such discussions emphasize that, in its position on Iraq, the United States has only political slogans that are not based on legal justification or logic. The only thing it wants to do is harm Iraq and to use the international community in general, and the Security Council in particular, to continue to harm Iraq.

The failure of U.S. pretexts during the previous stage was accompanied by a serious fissure within the anti-Iraq alliance. There are several reasons for these changes, including the following:

- The alliance's main countries became aware of the serious harm they suffered as a result of the U.S. policy before, during, and after the military aggression against Iraq, especially after the U.S. endeavor to tighten its grip on oil resources and to link Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other countries with agreements that secure U.S. control without considering the interests of its alliance partners.
- Most of the republics of the former Soviet Union and the East European countries became aware of U.S. attempts aimed at marginalizing and impoverishing them to take revenge on their peoples, along with Russia's reemergence as a power with international weight and influence.
- The U.S. policies failed in attempts to foster its slogans about its unilateral leadership of the world, especially after dealing with the foreign problems in Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

- The United State fabricated a number of economic problems with Japan and Europe and tried to solve its internal economic crisis at the expense of the peoples of Europe, Japan, etc.

When the peoples of the world began to view Iraq as the victim of a real colonialist game with no legitimate moral motives, it simply entrenched the fissure within the antagonist alliance. The Iraqi ability to defend the homeland and to reconstruct what the aggressors destroyed, and the sound policies adopted by Iraq in dealing with the crises created directly by the United States and the Security Council, won it the confidence and respect of the reasonable states and political and social forces in the world, including certain powers and movements that, until recently, were viewed as part of the antagonist alliance.

Given all this, one can say that the current international and regional circumstances have consolidated Iraq's position and legitimate cause, and provided a serious and true opportunity for lifting the unfair embargo clamped upon it. At the same time, however, these circumstances are causing the enemies, whose interests have been served by the aggression and the embargo, to suffer from a hysteria that could push them into adventures, or to continue to take positions that conflict with the principles of fairness and justice when the embargo is reviewed by the UN Security Council. The U.S. Administration is confused. It has nothing left except hostile political slogans. It is persisting with these slogans, aided in this by certain Arab rulers who are suffering from serious domestic crises. These rulers believe that the lifting of the embargo could accelerate their downfall if their domestic crises remain unresolved.

The principles and constants that have governed Iraq's conduct during the recent past will remain unchanged. Nonetheless, this conduct must reflect an understanding of what has been achieved, and the changes that have taken place in the region and the world.

To begin with, the lifting of the embargo must be Iraq's prime objective, given that the embargo is a continuation of the military aggression, albeit harsher and more harmful. Now that Iraq has met all the obligations enshrined in the relevant UN Security resolutions, and that the root cause of the conflict, which was behind the deluge of resolutions, has been resolved, the UN Security Council is required to revoke in a clear resolution all embargo measures, declaring that this is prompted by Iraq's compliance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Heated and contentious debates are expected to be held at the UN Security Council's closed and open meetings. It is true that most permanent and nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council are for lifting the sanctions, either partially or entirely. However, the U.S. Administration is expected to wield the big stick to prevent the UN Security Council from taking a fair and reasonable resolution lifting the embargo. One cannot

rule out the likelihood that the U.S. Administration or its agents in the region might create incidents to form a negative political climate in order to influence the UN Security Council deliberations. Hence, we need to be alert, watchful, and ready to handle incidents as they unfold in accordance with their importance and seriousness. Likewise, we must draw the world's attention to the fact that Iraq is serious about its efforts to lift the embargo, that it is capable of acting to protect the homeland and safeguard the future of its generations, and that the Iraqi national struggle will take whatever form will ensure the achievement of the prime objective.

We urge the UN Security Council members to examine the issue of lifting the sanctions, and to seriously comply with relevant resolutions this time. For Iraq will not remain idle when it sees the continued harm and aggression mounted against it, and Iraqis, of all categories and social strata—be they in northern Iraq, southern Iraq, eastern Iraq, or western Iraq—are currently rallying around their historic leader Saddam Husayn to thwart the aggression once and for all, and achieve the decisive victory.

Paper Says Ekeus' 'Procrastination' Part of 'Ugly Game'

JN1403122394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—The AL-'IRAQ newspaper has asserted that both the Security Council and the UN Special Commission, led by Rolf Ekeus, are making a grave mistake if they think that they will not be held accountable for their continued attempts to avoid giving a specific date for the lifting of the embargo. They are also greatly mistaken if they think the Iraqi people will accept remaining at the mercy of the inspection agencies and their unfair conditions.

In an editorial today, the newspaper wonders: Does the Security Council think that the Iraqi leadership will continue to wait for unspecific and vague dates as to when the unfair embargo will be fully or partially lifted?

The paper adds: Do the United States, world Zionism, and the clique of agents and traitors think they can maintain the embargo indefinitely through delaying tactics and procrastination? Do they think they can achieve this by obstructing any positive stand the Security Council should take in return for Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations toward Security Council resolutions, despite the fact that these resolutions are harsh, severe, and illegitimate?

The paper highlights the important, valuable speech made by President Saddam Husayn when he received cabinet members and well-wishers on the 'Id al-Fitr. The paper cites his excellency as asserting that whatever the degree of Iraq's cooperation, commitment, and response, the party representing the Security Council will continue to be evasive, disregard facts, and give tendentious

explanations and lame excuses to weasel out of its commitments to close the file of the embargo once and for all.

The paper says it is laughable that the Security Council, which is influenced by the United States, claims that it is concerned about the sovereignty of Iraq at a time when the members of the Security Council violate this sovereignty and draw their own lines of latitude and longitude in order to achieve familiar, malicious objectives that threaten the very concept of our sovereignty.

The paper notes Rolf Ekeus's procrastination, saying it is another part of the ugly game. The chairman of the Special Commission is a senior diplomat and international official who is supposed to keep his word and respect his decisions and dates. This situation arouses sorrow and regret over the moral deterioration of the Security Council. One time Ekeus says that Iraqi compliance should be tested for three months; on another occasion, he says six months; and sometimes he says not less than a year. However, Ekeus has so far not told us when this probationary period will begin in order for us to know when it will end. Despite all of this, they talk about our credibility. Have you ever known greater hypocrisy or worse maneuvering tactics?

The paper adds: In light of our bitter experience with the Security Council, we realize that the ugly game aims, first and foremost, to exhaust the people of Iraq and manipulate its resources. The greater conspiracy—whose features were clear even before the U.S.-Zionist aggression—targets our development, cultural progress, the future of our generations, and our legitimate right to keep pace with the age and look forward to the 21st century and to achieving progress and development on all levels.

AL-'IRAQ says: After a few days, the Security Council will begin its periodic discussions on lifting the sanctions. The patient and steadfast Iraqis will not be affected or weakened if the Security Council again fails to comply with its commitments under pressure from the United States and Zionism. Our people and leadership will face any such situation in a way that maintains the momentum of their earnest work to face challenges.

Concluding, AL-'IRAQ stresses that the lofty Iraq will not go back on its national and pan-Arab course. It will remain the edifice of faith, honest principles, and genuine values. Iraq will not be shaken by treacherous storms or forces of evil, despotism, or falsehood. That is how we are and that is how we will continue to be. However, the enemies of God and humanity will harvest evil, disgrace, and misfortune.

Cabinet Declares Kakh, Kahana Hay 'Terrorists'

TA1303115194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1120
GMT 13 Mar 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpts] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir emerged from the building a few minutes ago and announced that Kakh and Kahana Hay have been declared terror organizations on par with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], to cite just one example. Let us hear Ben-Ya'ir's explanations:

[Begin Ben-Ya'ir recording] The government hereby declares that the following groups are terrorist organizations:

1. The Kakh movement, whose key activists today are: Barukh Marzel, No'am Federman, and Tiran Polack.
2. The Kahana Hay movement, whose key activists today are: Binyamin Kahana, David Axelrod, and Yequti'el Ben-Ya'aqov.

This decree applies to the aforementioned terrorist organizations, as well as to any group of people acting to attain the same kind of goals which the aforementioned organizations acted to attain and with means similar to those used by the aforementioned organizations, even if they are called by other names or monikers either on a permanent or a temporary basis. This decree will also apply to splinter groups or combinations of the aforementioned organizations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The cabinet decided to outlaw these movements after examining various pieces evidence. In view of the fact that this decision curtails basic democratic liberties, such as the freedom of association and freedom of movement, the attorney general reiterated several times that the cabinet is in possession of evidence with regard to the dangers posed by these movements. [passage omitted]

The meaning of the decision is that anybody supporting these terrorist organizations, either verbally or financially, will be liable for imprisonment and that the property of these organizations may be confiscated. The attorney general went on to say that the police commissioner is entitled to order the closing of places where activists of these organizations assemble. The decision is based on Article 8 of the Antiterror Act.

As said a few minutes ago, the cabinet has decided that the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements are terrorist organizations according to all the legal definitions of the nature of a terrorist organization and are as of this moment declared illegal.

Affirms Commitment to Palestinians' Security

TA1303153494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500
GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Due to the spate of reports pertaining to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] rules of engagement in the territories and in the wake of the Hebron massacre, the cabinet today adopted a resolution reiterating the Israeli Government's responsibility, through the IDF and the police, for the security of all the residents of the territories, both Jews and Arabs.

The cabinet reiterated its commitment to provide maximum security for all the residents of the territories. The resolution stated that the IDF and the security forces had been instructed to exhaust all legal and security measures in order to fulfill this goal.

The cabinet's resolution stipulated that the Palestinian police would be responsible for the security of Palestinian residents in the areas it was deployed in. Until the Palestinian police was established, Israel would take all necessary measures to prevent any security vacuum.

Rabin, Netanyahu on Kakh, Kahana Hay Decision

TA1303175794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700
GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the decision to outlaw the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements was designed to prevent the use of violence as a means to achieve political goals. The prime minister stressed that the decision was based on a legal statement of opinion submitted by the attorney general and backed by reports from the Shin Bet and the police. When asked whether the cabinet's decision would be upheld by the High Court of Justice, Mr. Rabin said he assumed that the attorney general and the Justice Ministry had ascertained that these steps were legal. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that the prime minister was speaking at a memorial ceremony for deceased Israeli presidents and prime ministers.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that movements which promulgated violence should be outlawed. Netanyahu, however, added that there should be legal restrictions limiting the term of such steps to six months in order to examine their effectiveness.

NRP [National Religious Party] leader Zvulun Hammer said that the path chosen by the Kahana activists was wrong, asserting that anyone inciting to murder, racism, or the undermining of democracy should be punished. However, Hammer noted, it would be better if such steps were taken by the courts and not by a government with political leanings.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan criticized the decision saying that only people who violate the law should be dealt with legally.

Labor party secretary Nisim Zvili said that one should not judge the entire settler community on the basis of activities carried out by the extremist movements in the territories. Now more than ever, Zvili said, it was time to establish a dialogue with the settlers so as not to turn them into enemies of peace.

Ministers Seek Rapid Enactment of Cabinet Decision

TA1303173794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Excerpts] As of noon today, the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements were declared terror organizations according to the Antiterror Act. According to the government's declaration, support for these movements, activity within them, and even solidarity with them, are offenses which entail a prison penalty. This is what Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir said at the end of the meeting:

[Begin Ben-Ya'ir recording] [passage omitted] The government has decided that due to the danger involved in the activity of members of these organizations, there is no choice now but to infringe on the basic democratic liberties of people who belong in or are associated with, or identify with, these movements, and to decide on declaring these organizations as terroristic ones.

Membership in an organization which has been declared terroristic; playing a role in such an organization; extending verbal, practical, or financial support to such an organization; or expressing solidarity with it, will all be considered an offense which entails an imprisonment penalty. The above is according to Articles 2, 3, and 4 of the Antiterror Act. The property of the organizations can be confiscated by the state, according to Article 5 of this Act. According to Article 6 of this Antiterror Act, Israel Police's inspector general can decide on the closure of places which serve terrorist organizations or their members as a place of storage or as a basis of activity, meeting, or propaganda, be it regularly or on occasion.

The government gave due consideration to the significance of its decision from the viewpoint of infringing on or curtailing basic democratic liberties such as the freedom of association, the freedom of movement, and others, but viewed itself compelled to adopt this decision because of the activity of these movements and their members. [end recording]

The cabinet ministers adopted Ben-Ya'ir's recommendation unanimously, but stressed nevertheless, that the decision was not easy. The ministers demand that the decision be enforced, and that the radical settlers be disarmed and removed from places of friction in the territories. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

This evening or tomorrow the attorney general will relay clear operational guidelines to the Shin Bet and the police, according to the government's declaration on

Kakh and Kahana Hay as terror organizations. Imprisonment is the sentence facing every member of these organizations, as well as any person who supports them verbally, practically, or financially. Justice Minister David Liba'i clarifies that the decision will not enable the members of Kakh and Kahana Hay to play games with the police and act under a different name. [passage omitted]

The ministers demand a rapid implementation of the decision now. Minister Yosi Sarid demands that special mechanisms be established in the Shin Bet, the Justice Ministry, and the police, with their sole duty being that of monitoring the implementation of the decision. Ministers Rubinstein and Tzur demand that the radical settlers be disarmed right away, removed from the territories, and banned from military reserves service. This is first and foremost a moral decision, the cabinet ministers said. This is an extreme move which was difficult for me to vote on, said Minister Moshe Shahal, while Minister Shetrit explained that the cabinet's action was one of no choice. [passage omitted]

The cabinet meeting ended only about 30 minutes ago, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will leave tomorrow, carrying a drastic government decision, declaring Kakh and Kahana Hay terrorist organizations.

[Later on in the IDF evening newsreel, Police Minister Moshe Shahal says that the Israel Police has information about "several hundred up to a few thousand" people. Still, everything depends on the guidelines the police receive from the attorney general, and a decision on action will be made according to collected evidence; those who committed "concrete offenses" and against whom there is sufficient evidence will be brought to trial.]

Two IDF Generals Empowered To Define 'Terrorist'

TA1303202594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The commanders of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central and Southern Commands today signed an order empowering them to define any group employing violence and threats as a terrorist organization. This expands the authority of the two major generals responsible for the areas where most of the Kakh and Kahana Hay members reside.

Up until now, the Antiterror Act could only be enforced inside the Green Line and had no legal validity in the territories. If the IDF commanders make use of their new powers, it will be possible to take measures against those organizations that are defined as terrorist in nature, their members, and their property, with all the attendant ramifications.

Kakh Leader Barzel Vows To Continue Operations*TA1303122794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Mar 94*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the cabinet decision to outlaw Kakh and Kahana Hay was passed unanimously. Minister Ya'ir Tzaban was of the opinion that the definition of terror should also be applied to Rabbi Moshe Levinger, but he was told that such a decision would not withstand an appeal to the High Court of Justice. During the session, the cabinet examined documents presented by Shin Bet officials about suspicions connecting the two terrorist organizations to unsolved murder cases in the territories.

The issue of firing regulations in the territories also came up in the meeting, but the cabinet decided not to discuss the issue because it is currently being dealt with by the State Commission of Inquiry.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in the meeting that the question of the curfews and closures on the territories are being constantly revised. The cabinet will hold another session this afternoon.

Kakh leader Barukh Barzel said that his movement will continue to operate from the underground and, if necessary, also from jail. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the police have arrested another Kahana Hay activist, a resident of Kfar Tapuah, who refused to turn in his weapon.

Kakh To 'Suspend' Activity Pending Ruling*TA1303175394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Mar 94*

[Text] The Kakh movement has announced that it will submit an appeal to the High Court of Justice against the decision to declare it a terrorist organization. The organization said that it would temporarily suspend its activity pending the High Court's ruling.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that in its announcement, the Kakh movement asserted that all its activity had been carried out within the framework of the law.

Justice Minister David Liba'i said that the Justice Ministry was currently preparing an amendment to the Antiterror Act according to which the judiciary, and not the Israeli Government, would be made responsible for declaring which groups constituted terrorist organizations.

Here are some reactions to the cabinet's decision to declare the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements terrorist organizations: PLO official Abu-al-'Ala' said that although this constituted a positive step, it was too little in relation to the enormity of the Hebron massacre. Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan said that the decision came too late. Such a decision, he said,

should already have been made by earlier Likud governments. Mikha'el Eytan added that many people had been led astray by these movements.

The Committee of Arab Local Councils welcomed the decision but said that it was not enough. The settlers should be taken out of Hebron and those capable of harming the fabric of relations between Jews and Arabs should be disarmed.

Uri Ari'el, the secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, said that the decision should have been made by a court and not by the executive level.

Paper Says Outlawing Kakh, Kahana Hay Not Enough*TA1403121494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 94 p B1*

[Editorial: "Incriminating Kahanism"]

[Text] Yesterday, on the basis of the Antiterror Act, the government declared Kakh and Kahana Hay, two organizations that promote Me'ir Kahana's ideology, terrorist organizations. In lay terms, this decree "puts them outside the law;" in legal terms, it means the government has made membership in any of these organizations a criminal act; from the public and political point of view, it puts them on a par with Palestinian terrorist organizations.

No democratic state hastens to outlaw a collective entity. Each and every article of the penal code treats people as individuals and not as members of an organized body; liberals have qualms about acting as oppressors. Kahanists may now argue that the Israeli Government has betrayed its own principles. After all, existing legislation does not prevent bringing members of these outlawed organizations to trial and their being treated with utmost severity if the prosecution can prove that they broke the law.

The penal code does not punish views, but there are situations in which even a democratic state must outlaw organizations. In 1948, the Provisional Council of State [PCS] issued the Antiterror Act in response to the assassination of UN mediator Folke Bernadotte. Based on the Law and Administrative Ordinance, laws enacted by the PCS were called "acts" to highlight the fact that the legislative body was a provisional entity created in the aftermath of a revolutionary feat (the declaration of the state upon the conclusion of the British mandate). The PCS decided to create the legal tools with which it hoped to get rid of the Stern Gang, from whose ranks the assassin came, because it was feared that the group would generate more assassins whose crimes might have seriously harmed the state.

The government's actions yesterday followed the line of the 1948 events. Barukh Goldstein was a Kahanist. So, who is to tell that other assassins will not emerge from

the same environment? Hence, qualms notwithstanding, preventing any type of organized activities by people who might infer practical conclusions from their political views (similar to the conclusion reached by the assassin at the Cave of the Patriarchs) is right.

One of these people, Barukh Marzel, has already announced that he and his friends will go underground and continue doing as they please. There is no certainty that the security forces will succeed in preventing other manifestations of anti-Arab violence, which could be perpetrated by people who have never been members of any Kahanist organization.

Even if the effectiveness of outlawing Kakh and Kahana Hay is doubtful, one cannot dismiss the value of the warning issued by the government yesterday. In his address to the Knesset, Yitzhaq Rabin drew a distinction between Barukh Goldstein and his supporters and the Jewish public at large. The outlawing of these organizations is meant to warn people against joining or supporting them, as the government trusts the psychological impact of its decision.

Nevertheless, it would be wrong for Rabin and other cabinet ministers to think that they completed their job with this anti-Kahanist move. In addition, they must remove the Jews from Hebron, and they cannot make do with relocating them to Qiryat Arba'. The massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs also tainted Gush Emunim and the entire settler community. Ostracizing Kakh and Kahana Hay and getting rid of the Jewish presence in Hebron are not enough to restart the peace process.

Rabin: Accord 'Window of Opportunity' Closing

TA1403100694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Mar 94 p 6

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri, and Rome correspondent Yosi Bar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking in closed forums in recent days, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, for the first time since the beginning of the peace negotiations, has been voicing a pessimistic forecast about the chances of attaining peace in the region. "I have the feeling that the window of opportunity for an arrangement between us, the Arabs, and the Palestinians is slowly closing," Rabin stated in the course of various consultations.

The prime minister is extremely worried about the erosion in support for an arrangement with Israel among the Palestinians in the territories. He is also concerned about Russia's return to the region with the aim of taking independent action, not coordinated with the United States. [passage omitted]

Rabin Reportedly Not To Evacuate Hebron Settlers

TA1303095994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Mar 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not intend to do anything about evacuating the Jewish settlers from Hebron and transferring them to Qiryat Arba' or other locations.

Rabin believes that such a move would set a dangerous precedent that would serve as an incentive for the Palestinian terrorist organizations operating against the settlements in the territories.

Rabin transmitted his position on the matter to U.S. Administration sources with whom he spoke over recent days. In the prime minister's view, a decision to evacuate the Hebron settlers would also lead to the opening of the Israeli-PLO agreement, which is contrary to Israel's current interest.

A majority was developing in the cabinet last week for evacuating the settlers in Hebron, mainly for security reasons.

The United States is exerting pressure on Rabin to take a series of steps to make it easier for 'Arafat to return to the negotiating table following the Hebron massacre. The U.S. Administration is pressuring for a withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Hebron's central bus station. The Americans claim that if Rabin cannot evacuate the settlers, then he can at least make a gesture to the Arabs in Hebron, and evacuate the central bus station area, which the IDF took control of several months ago.

Rabin has so far also rejected this U.S. request, claiming that planned Palestinian retaliation against the Hebron settlers is prohibiting any thinning of forces or a withdrawal from the bus station. Rabin made it clear to the Americans that he cannot and will not do anything beyond what he has already done to tighten supervision over the settlers.

In talks the prime minister will hold in Washington this week, he will also raise the issue of growing military cooperation being between Russia and Syria, in the wake of recent reports reaching Israel that Russia has renewed contacts with Syria, offering it sophisticated military equipment.

Rabin is due to inform the cabinet today of steps he intends to take to outlaw Kakh and Kahana Hay, based on Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir's opinion, presented to the prime minister over the weekend. The opinion advocates measures to declare them terrorist organizations under the antiterrorism law.

Rabin Orders Detention of Golan Settler

TA1303202994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000
GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Mikha'el Ben-Horin, from the Golan Heights settlement of Nov, was arrested this evening after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed a three-month administrative detention order against him. Ben-Horin calls himself the president of the State of Judaea and is considered one of the most radical settlers living on the Golan Heights.

Russian Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Rabin**Kozyrev Delivers Message From Yeltsin**

TA1103144594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400
GMT 11 Mar 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal from the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv]

[Text] Four hours ago, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived on a lightning visit designed to help Israel and the PLO resume negotiations. At this very minute, he is meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Kozyrev has brought a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The Russian minister has brought no new proposals, contrary to anticipation in Israel prompted by his observations in Moscow about proposals unacceptable to Israel, such as a second Madrid conference and an armed international force in the territories. Emerging from his meeting with Peres a short while ago, he rejected these proposals. Asked about the second Madrid conference concept, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev answered as follows:

[Begin Kozyrev recording, in English] What we have to do right now is to save the process as it is and finish the first stage, that is, Gaza and Jericho negotiations and implementation of [word indistinct]. And after that probably we might wish, or the parties might wish to consider (?having) not revision, but review conference, that is resumption of Madrid, not something different from [what] Madrid was. [end recording]

[Segal translates above and continues] As soon as his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is over, Kozyrev will leave for Tunis where he will meet with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

[Reporting on the Kozyrev-Peres meeting, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 11 March adds: "Officials who participated in the meeting received the impression that Russia and the United States are coordinated with regard to Moscow's wish for greater involvement in the political process."

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 11 March states: "Speaking after his meeting with Peres, the Russian foreign minister said Moscow is in favor of an international presence in the territories, but it does not insist on an armed presence.

["Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel appreciates Russia's part in the attempt to promote negotiations. He noted that the ties between the two countries have recently become closer."]

Rabin to Kozyrev: Coordinate With U.S.

TA1103164794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600
GMT 11 Mar 94

[Excerpt] In a meeting with the Russian foreign minister in Tel Aviv today, the prime minister implied that he was dissatisfied with Russia's independent involvement in the peace process without coordination with the United States. The peace process cosponsors—Russia and the United States—will do well to coordinate their positions, Mr. Rabin told Andrey Kozyrev.

He reiterated the Israeli stand that there is no point in reopening signed agreements, and that the PLO should return at once to the negotiations with Israel. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the visiting statesman called on Israel to make a move that will persuade 'Arafat.

The meeting, which was held in the prime minister's Tel Aviv office, was also attended by Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks, and Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. [passage omitted]

Rabin Accepts Invitation to Moscow

TA1403100094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in
Hebrew 14 Mar 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is due to depart for Washington this evening. At the beginning of April he will travel to Moscow for political talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Yeltsin sent Rabin a message yesterday with a special courier in which he invites Rabin for a meeting to discuss the political process, as well as issues pertaining to Israeli-Russian relations. Rabin accepted the invitation.

In recent days, the prime minister has voiced his concern about Russia's wish to resume an active role in the region. Rabin publicly voiced his displeasure after meeting with the Russian foreign minister and his deputy, who recently came to Israel in a bid to mediate between it and the PLO.

It seems that the Russians were hurt by the way their envoys were received in Israel and consequently proceeded to arrange a meeting between Rabin and Yeltsin. [passage omitted]

French Minister Arrives for Talks on Peace Process

BR1103161794 Paris LE FIGARO in French 11 Mar 94
p 7

[Report by Patrice-Henry Desaubiaux: "Francois Leotard in Israel: Support the Resumption of the Peace Process"]

[Text] Tel Aviv—France should again play a role in the Middle East. This statement by Francois Leotard upon his arrival in Tel Aviv, where he will stay until this evening, summarizes the purpose of this visit, the first since 1948, by a French defense minister to Israel. This statement and wish were reiterated as Francois Leotard's leitmotif throughout the day yesterday. It was a particularly busy day with two major highlights: In the morning, the meeting with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and in the afternoon, in the Oriental House in Jerusalem, a meeting which lasted nearly one hour with a Palestinian delegation led by Faysal al-Husayni, the PLO leader of the occupied territories.

To Prime Minister Rabin, Mr. Leotard restated, one month after [Foreign Affairs Minister] Juppe's visit, France's willingness to restore normal relations with Israel. These relations should be at least as cordial as those France has with most countries, also in this region, and should include exchanges in the military sphere—where prospects are still modest for the time being—and in the industrial sphere, where things are likely to move much faster.

To the Palestinian delegation, Francois Leotard said how deeply the French authorities had regretted the Hebron massacre. In his opinion, "the only alternative to violence is not a status quo, but negotiations." The defense minister again suggested to the Palestinians that France participate, through its gendarmerie, in the formation of a Palestinian police force.

After these meetings, the minister had the impression that history is vacillating at this very moment. It is not impossible that the peace process be jeopardized again, with easily conceivable consequences for security in the entire region. This would be a victory of extremism; it would also be a drama for both Mr. Rabin's and Yasir 'Arafat's supporters.

It was not the minister's ambition, as he himself declared, to "lecture anyone." It was his goal to help the two signatories of the Washington accord surmount their common plight. During a news conference, Francois Leotard thus summarized his thoughts: "France should be able to play a role in the restoration of peace, speaking from the heart as well as the head."

Peres: Settlement Issue Outside of PLO Talks

TA1403164094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500
GMT 14 mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today said that the evacuation of Jewish settlements in the territories would be implemented solely as an internal Israeli decision and not as part of the negotiations with the PLO. Peres added that due to the delay in the negotiations, the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho could not be expected to take place on 13 April as planned. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports.

[Begin recording] [El'azar] Estonian President Lennart Meri and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres were holding hands when they left the ceremony in which they signed joint economic agreements. Peres, however, let go of his guest's hand and, as always, commented on the future of the political process.

[Peres] We must constantly find ways to reach agreement and I hope that we will be successful.

[El'azar] A little time, not much, is all Peres is asking for. His message for the PLO was that one cannot constantly put off the resumption of the negotiations and still expect the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip to take place on 13 April. In the same breath, Peres explained that any expectation of Israel evacuating settlements is unfounded.

[Peres] The issue of whether settlements have to be moved or not is an Israeli decision, but not part of the negotiations with the Palestinians.

[El'azar] Peres also commented on the Clinton-Rabin summit scheduled for later this week. There is no need to divert the focus to the Syrian track, he explained, because Israel is prepared to make progress on all three tracks. The foreign minister then moved on to discuss Prime Minister Rabin's impending meeting with the Pope.

[Peres] We have just established relations after 2,000 years. We now have to discuss the next 2,000 years.

[El'azar] Addressing the more mundane aspects of the peace negotiations, the Foreign Ministry said that the Israeli Government would discuss its next steps after being briefed on the results of today's meetings in Tunis. [end recording]

Team Leaves for Tunis for Talks With 'Arafat, Ross

TA1403053094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] An Israeli delegation is leaving for Tunis for talks with Yasir 'Arafat and Dennis Ross, the U.S. official responsible for the peace negotiations. Ross arrived in the Tunisian capital yesterday. The Israeli team is made up of the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Uri

Savir; General 'Uzi Dayan of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]; and the prime minister's political adviser, Jacques Neriya.

The decision to dispatch the delegation to Tunis came in the wake of the intensive American efforts to bring about renewal of negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

Qol Yisra'el's Washington correspondent says also that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the PLO's Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] are likely to meet at the end of the week to restart talks on the autonomy for Gaza and Jericho. The Washington meeting is apparently dependent on the outcome of the contacts now under way in Tunis.

Closure Said To End Gradually After Muslim Holidays

TA1103122494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal recommends continuing the closure on the territories. Police Commissioner Rafi Peled added that the closure will be lifted gradually beginning after the Muslim holidays, but did not mention any date. Commissioner Peled told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that the police have a high deployment in sensitive areas where Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] might operate, but stressed that a police presence cannot be assured everywhere.

More Arab Workers Permitted Into Israel

TA1303135894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Despite the closure on the territories, the number of workers who have received permits to enter Israel has recently been increased. Officials at the Employment Service told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that over

the weekend, another 5,300 workers were issued permits, bringing the total number of agricultural and industrial workers from the territories with permits to work in Israel to 9,800. From now on, all workers from the territories over the age of 30 will be eligible for a work permit on the condition that they are married.

IDF Will Not Change Firing Rules on Settlers

TA1103204594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not revise the rules governing shooting at Jewish settlers. A senior defense source has told our military correspondent Roni Daniyel that the orders banning gunfire on Jews does not apply to cases such as the Hebron massacre, contrary to the testimony of the Hebron Border Police company commander at the Shamgar Commission session.

Open-Fire Instructions Clarified

TA1203173594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Military sources have said that yesterday the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] took steps toward clarifying the open-fire instructions in the territories. Speaking to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, the sources said the steps were designed to prevent confusion among soldiers caused by a Border Police officer's testimony before the Shamgar Commission.

Our correspondent notes that the steps are designed to elucidate the existing instructions, according to which weapons are not to be used when enforcing law and public order on Israelis in the territories. Nevertheless, when observing an Israeli civilian shooting to hit others, or endangering others' lives without being in a life-threatening situation himself, the soldiers have to take every reasonable measure, including the use of firearms.

Politics of Region, Husayn's Role in Yemen Viewed

JN1103161994 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
12-18 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] It was not easy for His Majesty King Husayn to remain captive to the political equation produced by the Gulf crisis, especially since the crisis has gotten worse and taken a very serious turn. The crisis and its after effects have mixed up politics and religion. Consequently, the political crisis has enveloped Islamic shrines. King Husayn has repeatedly cautioned and warned against mixing politics with religion. Further, King Husayn has on more than one occasion called for keeping holy places away from "political action". He said sovereignty over those shrines, be they on the land of Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] or in the Palestinian territories, should be for God alone and not for any political side or state, whatever its standing.

It can be said that his majesty's performance of the minor pilgrimage on al-Qadr Night [27th of Ramadan] despite the political crisis overshadowing Saudi-Jordanian relations, was a practice of what his majesty has been preaching. Through his pilgrimage, King Husayn sought to deliver a message that sovereignty over holy shrines is for God and that the political dispute between Riyadh and Amman does not mean his majesty will remain deprived of his right to visit the land of Hejaz and the tomb of his great grandfather, Prophet Muhammad.

Therefore, many observers viewed his majesty's pilgrimage trip as a political step in religious guise. This step was meant to separate holy shrines from politics, which always harms the value, importance, and sanctity of holy shrines.

It can be further said that King Husayn's pilgrimage trip last week has laid down a new principle and important tradition in inter-Arab relations and in the link between religion and politics. This new principle ends "the monopoly of politicians over religious cards". It also opens the door wide to the prospect of turning holy sites into public property, away from the private standards set by the party holding monopoly over these sites, especially since these private standards are subject to change.

Observers think King Husayn's step will mark a precedent that can be depended upon to devise a new formula for relations among brothers, based on a new principle stipulating that "political differences should not prevent the parties to the dispute from performing their religious duties. In fact, these duties could improve ties when politics is unable to play its role."

Despite this image, which King Husayn's step created in the minds of observers the world over, government sources have told SHIHAN that when King Husayn decided to perform the minor pilgrimage he had no political gains in mind. His aim was to reestablish

contact between himself and the land of Hejaz, with which he is inseparably linked, avoiding "political complexities and calculations."

The sources pointed out, however, that they had expected a meeting to take place, on the sidelines of the visit, between His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The sources said the religious mission could have made political achievements had the Saudis responded favorably.

Information available to SHIHAN suggests Riyadh still rejects full normalization with Jordan. The reason is not an incorrect interpretation of Jordan's stand toward the Gulf crisis. Rather, it is the wrong interpretation of Jordan's role in bringing the views of the Yemeni parties closer and reconciling them in Amman in line with the accord document. Information also indicates that Jordan has refused over the past three years to make a public apology to Saudi Arabia because of its conviction that its stand toward the Gulf crisis and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was not biased toward Iraq, inasmuch as it was championing an Arab solution.

Jordanian government sources told SHIHAN that Jordan did not at all ask for U.S. intervention to mediate with Riyadh. Jordan believes the natural framework to address the misunderstanding resulting from the Gulf crisis is an Arab framework, be it bilateral or trilateral. It is within this framework that an open and frank dialogue can take place to reach genuine reconciliation.

An official thinks Saudi Arabia agreed to normalize relations with the PLO in response to a U.S. desire to strengthen the PLO's political and financial status in the wake of the Oslo accord. Saudi Arabia also agreed to normalize relations with the Yemeni Socialist Party—Riyadh's archenemy before the Gulf crisis—to take advantage of the dispute between President Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and to serve Saudi interests, which were completely neglected after the achievement of political unity in 1990.

A Western diplomat in Amman thinks King Husayn's performance of the minor pilgrimage, without it being crowned by an official meeting with King Fahd—not even a courteous meeting to show good hospitality—is a clear indication that normalizing relations between the two sides is still far off and requires major political efforts by several Arab and regional, and perhaps international, parties. The special circumstances that opened the Saudi gate to the Yemeni Socialist Party and the PLO are still not available for Jordan, which the Saudi regime regards as a regional peer on all levels.

This diplomat thinks, however, that King Husayn's pilgrimage trip has exonerated Jordan from any obligations that could be necessary to normalize relations with Riyadh, which is now asked to respond positively to this overture, one way or another.

Yemen's al-Bid Says Fahd Welcomed King's Visit

JN1203200994 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
10 Mar 94 pp 1, 19

[Text] Contrary to the expectations that had spread in the Jordanian capital, King Husayn left Saudi Arabia without being received by the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Jordanian sources had said that while in Saudi Arabia, the king would hold talks on the Gulf situation, clearing the Arab atmosphere, and peace efforts.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned from its special sources that the idea of the Jordanian king's visit to Saudi Arabia had been proposed by Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Saudi Arabia during his meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques, who welcomed the accord document signed in Amman. The sources said that al-Bid telephoned King Husayn in the presence of the custodian of the two holy mosques, who welcomed the king's visit for minor pilgrimage.

U.S. Accuses Government of 'Smuggling' to Iraq

JN1403065394 Amman AL-RASIF in Arabic 13 Mar 94
p 1

[Text] The U.S. Administration has demanded that Jordan produce documents approving the export of 6,000 tonnes of chemical materials transported to Iraq in late 1993. The chemicals are used in the refinement of oil used by Jordan.

The Jordanian Government has submitted a report showing the kind of materials exported, the license plate numbers of trucks that transported them, and the dates of export.

The U.S. measure is meant to increase pressure on Jordan by propagating rumors that Jordan is not complying with the embargo against Iraq. The purpose is to force the Jordanian Government to conclude a treaty with Israel before discussing its details.

Observers note that the United States wants to give the world the impression that Jordan is smuggling on the official level.

Knowledgeable sources say Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali might sacrifice Finance Minister Sami Qammuh—since Qammuh was the one who issued the export approvals—in a bid to convince the United States that Qammuh acted on his own without consulting the government.

U.S. Attempts To Deal With Iraq Via Amman Viewed

JN1203205394 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic
8 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] The countdown to lift, or at least to alleviate the blockade that has been imposed on Iraq since the Gulf crisis, has begun. Many conflicting interests have emerged over the years of the blockade. After Iraq, Jordan has been harmed the most. It has been subjected to pressure and accused of violating the blockade and international resolutions. However, it has maintained its national line, and at the same time, tried to end the heavy international embargo on the sisterly Iraq. Jordan has contacted Washington in this regard, the prime minister paid a visit to the UN Headquarters, and officials have held talks on this subject with the U.S. secretary of commerce in Amman. Jordan's attempts have not stopped.

However, some clouds have been noticed recently in Jordanian-Iraqi relations. What are the reasons and what is the nature behind this?

Informed sources told us that the United States has begun to pave the road to Baghdad for its companies via Jordan and that contacts have been held between Washington and Amman to this effect. The sources added that the Americans are playing the card of besieging al-'Aqabah to obtain exceptional privileges for their companies at the expense of Jordanian companies. This, the sources added, is rejected by the Jordanian side.

Our sources added that the Iraqi side felt that special arrangements are under way through which the Americans are pressuring Jordan. Therefore, the sources said, the Iraqi side fabricated a trade crisis with the Jordanian Government to incorporate it in these arrangements instead of forcing it to submit to their results. This Iraqi stand was explained by a senior Iraqi official who met two weeks ago with a Jordanian party delegation. Our sources said that the Iraqis asked the Jordanian side to inform them of any Jordanian arrangements regarding trade with Iraq through official correspondence over the past two months. This was followed by Iraqi measures such as returning large quantities of Jordanian commodities because they did not, according to the Iraqis, completely meet their specifications.

Meanwhile, Iraqi decisionmakers in the economic field talked with their counterparts in the Jordanian private sector about pressures exerted by big Iraqi businessmen on their government to anticipate any surprises that might face them in the future because Jordan is the most important trade route to the Iraqis.

This picture, which was drawn by our sources, will certainly be changed by regional and international factors in the near future.

Ja'ja' Followers Suspected in Terrorist Activities

Ja'ja' Criticizes Government

JN1103163594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, by Salim Badawi in the studio on 10 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ja'ja'] I am not going to quarrel with anyone. But when you have a house with three doors that lead only into this house and they deploy militarily or place barricades at these entrances, call it what you will. However, what I wanted to say is that by behaving like this and striking at the last string of the credibility that it may still have, the Lebanese government is not leading to anything. This means that it is widening the gap between it and its people. This is not good and will not lead to anything. The Lebanese government is destroying itself by this behavior, when it has many greater concerns on the national level, on security violations, current events, the Middle East peace process, and on many other (?levels.) Instead, the entire government is engaged in—and I apologize to the listeners for using this phrase—political inconsistencies [dhabdhabat] and practices that do not become the state in any form.

[Badawi] In your view, what is the reason behind erecting military barricades today, especially in front of the Lebanese Forces positions and the Samir Ja'ja' headquarters in Ghidras?

[Ja'ja'] I have no clear answer, but such practices become larger or smaller in accordance with the Lebanese Forces' political stand. This is not acceptable. The government should not have anything to do with the political stands of any political group in the arena in any form whatsoever. Otherwise, conditions become as you can see them and therefore, the credibility of the government will be destroyed and ...

[Badawi, interrupting] Can we link today's operation to the news conference you held following the massacre at the Sayyidat al-Najat church and the stands you expressed at that time?

[Ja'ja'] Apparently, from now on the question has become that of analyses and inferences. Yes, it is possible. I do not have any other explanation. This is the situation and these are the facts. As to the reasons, I do not know. But I know these practices harm the state in the first place.

[Badawi] Dr. Ja'ja', I would like to know your preliminary reaction to remarks by General Michel 'Awn in the newspaper AL-HAYAH today. 'Awn says a federation should be established in Lebanon, or a form that is above the religious denominations, that is, a secular regime. What do you think of this. Do you not see in it a repetition of your previous proposal for federation in Lebanon?

[Ja'ja'] We originally proposed the decentralization, or federation, after a careful and deep study of the Lebanese situation, the historical and the political situation in general, the sociological conditions. It was not just a remark. It was the result of a long process of fermentation in the Lebanese political situation. I hope the rest of the political groups—before we again suffer through this and pass through this experience for the second, third, fifth and tenth time—will really study the real situation. Eventually they will reach a clear conclusion like General 'Awn's conclusion, because this is reality. There is nothing magic about it. One reads the reality today, the other reads it two years from now, the third reads it after ten years. All this will be a waste of time.

[Badawi] Thank You, Dr. Samir Ja'ja'.

[Ja'ja'] You are welcome.

States Willingness To Hand Over Suspects

NC1203083594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said in a telephone interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper that he does not know the reasons behind the tightened measures still being taken by units of the Lebanese Army in Ghidras. Ja'ja' expressed his willingness to hand over any wanted person if investigations prove he had a connection with recent explosions.

Stating that the state, with all its apparatuses, has not requested he hand over anyone, Ja'ja' said: We were surprised by these measures, for which I can find no explanation.

Ja'ja' revealed that 20 people have been arrested and that a 100 members of the Lebanese Forces are being treated as suspects and are being harassed.

Lebanese Forces Issues Statement

NC1203093194 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces' Central Media Apparatus; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Instead of opening this statement by providing the public with a political interpretation of the goings on in the Lebanese arena, we will only recount the events without comment, since these events have political implications that the citizens can understand and draw their own conclusions as to the events' meanings and import.

In this context, we note that the authorities have been carrying out a storming and arrest campaign over the past 24 hours. The campaign encompassed the areas of al-Arz, Sadd al-Bawshariyah, Mayruba, 'Amshit, Jubayl, Jadayil, al-Buwar, Sinn al-Fil, al-'Uqaybah, Juniyah, Zuq Mikha'il, and others. The authorities took the

liberty of violating the sanctity of homes in a manner deemed impermissible by law, tradition, the Constitution, and human rights.

The Lebanese Forces would like to note a few things.

1. The following persons have been arrested: Sharbil Zena Rahmi, Kamil Khalil, Faris Matta, Zuhayr 'Ubayd, Tony Hanna Basil, George Nakhlah Khalifah, As'ad 'Ubayd, Joseph Anis Rizq; 60-year-old Joseph Faddul, chief of the Bsharrah region in the Phalangist Salvation Committee, and his sons Tony and Fawzi; Sharbil Bulus, Edgar al-Ris, John al-Risa, Isiah 'Utayyiq, Tony Jabbur, 'General Jabbur, Tony Jum'ah, Joseph Jum'ah, Jack Jum'ah, Sahwqi al-Dakkash, Elie al-Ra'i, Rafiq Tawq, and Louis 'Abd-al-Satir. They all belong to the Lebanese Forces or the Phalangist Salvation Committee.

2. Among the stormed homes were the homes of Walid Sulayman, Tony Abu-Yunus, Sharbil Abi-'Aql, Wisam Bulus, Romeo 'Awwad, John Habib, and Tarabayh Rahmi.

3. Despite what is happening, the Lebanese Forces have repeated their call to officials to respect the laws and Constitution and international traditions. They reiterate their confidence that the rule of law and justice must eventually prevail no matter how difficult things might be and regardless of how citizens are targeted, how much partisan activity is restricted, and how democracy and the people's rights are violated.

Official Comments

NC1203090194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] As part of the security measures taken by the Lebanese Army on the night of 10-11 March 1994 in the various Lebanese areas, patrols of the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces and the Public and State Security directorates, in coordination with the Army's intelligence directorate, staged storming operations to arrest persons wanted for crimes and others suspected of spreading rumors and making threatening calls. A number of persons were arrested and are being interrogated for referral to the judiciary.

Today's issue of the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper cites an official source as saying that storming operations were not exclusive to Kasrawan but covered all the areas, including Beirut and its suburbs. The source affirmed that the Lebanese security agencies and intelligence apparatus have a complete file on various security incidents, including the Sayyidat al-Najat [church] explosion. This file gives us clear clues to the culprits in these incidents, he said. However, he added, clues are not sufficient in a country like Lebanon, because there is a difference between evidence that convinces the security organs and that which will convince the judiciary.

Responding to a question, the official source said that the arrest campaigns dealt with more than 13 persons—explosives experts and suspects, or people wanted in

certain cases involving deliberate attempts to mar the atmosphere and spread panic among the public.

Replying to another question, the official source said that the conduct of Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' after the explosion in the Sayyidat al-Najat church was not a political move so much as a security move which he wanted to use to show that others were being unjust to him or to forestall the security forces from trying to uncover the culprits and thus ease the worries of persons connected to him. The investigation will entail interrogations of these persons for information the investigators need, the source remarked.

He added: They leaked the story that the Army had stationed soldiers at the entrances to the headquarters of Ja'ja' in Ghidras and that the troops had tried to go in one of the entrances but had retreated after an argument with the headquarters guards. This is not true, the source said, adding: The Army does not retreat before the guards of any headquarters. The days when headquarters guards could do that are over; it is no longer possible for any party to use force to prevent the Army from entering any place or to light the fuse on a certain front or instigate a battle. The Army is capable of settling any military or security situation, he affirmed, adding: To put it simply, the Army had no orders to enter this particular headquarters.

Explaining the reason for the reinforcement of Army troops in Ghidras, the source said: As part of the storming operations that started on Thursday, two of the Lebanese Forces' members are wanted for interrogation; their leadership knows this. When we demanded that these persons be turned over, they stirred up that commotion in order to harm the military institution as part of a coordinated campaign that started with the church explosion. Some people have grudges against the military institution, the source said.

He added that some persons in the Lebanese Forces headquarters are wanted. Warrants have been issued for some of them and some have been sentenced in absentia, including Raji 'Abduh, who is wanted in connection with the assassination attempt against the president of the republic in 1991. Others are wanted for interrogation and to testify in the case of the church explosion. These people must be turned over, he said. Some of these persons played a certain role or have information about certain persons, he explained.

The official source told AL-HAYAH that the security file the authorities are handling, in close coordination, includes investigations into the explosion at the Phalangist Party central headquarters and other incidents. More important in this connection is that the Israeli network that the security agencies discovered, some of whose suspected members have been referred to the judiciary, has branches in the occupied border strip and other areas. One of the major suspects in this network has not yet been arrested, but he is known to be in a

certain area, which we will not reveal. This area is known to us and to others, the source said.

The source believes that the Lebanese Forces are blowing the case out of proportion in order to close the file and reach a settlement with the state concerning their wanted members.

Army Maintains Roadblocks

NC1203131994 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] For the third day running, the Lebanese Army continues to man fixed and mobile roadblocks at the entrances to the Lebanese Forces command and the home of Dr. Samir Ja'ja' in Ghidras. Lebanese Army personnel continue to search all travelers to Ghidras without exception, including journalists, who are being prevented from bringing in their recording equipment and cameras. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Comments on Situation

NC1303101294 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] In an interview published in today's issue of AL-DIYAR, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' views the situation in Ghidras and the recent security measures, arrests, and house searches.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: The first thing that caught my attention in the security developments concerning Ghidras and the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces is that a security source accused me of cheap public posturing. I would like to ask this source, in all cordiality, why is he afraid to identify himself? First of all, who is this security source? Secondly, in what self-respecting country in the world do security personnel dabble into political matters and accuse politicians, ministers, and deputies.

A security man's job is to gather security information and report them to the legal authorities and political officials, who may take the necessary action and, if need be, file charges.

Today, for example U.S. President Bill Clinton is facing accusations. The attorney general, a Washington Court judge, the secretary of the interior, and the attorney general are the ones who may comment on whether the President of the United States is to face charges or not. But things are different here. I find it totally unacceptable that a security official should make statements or leak news at will.

The second remark that I found interesting is the claim that the Lebanese authorities are currently examining the possibility of liquidating the Lebanese Forces. This is the first time I have heard of such a thing. I call on the anonymous individual who spread such rumors to identify himself. For example, is he the interior minister, who has the legal right to bring up that matter, or the defense

minister, or the president, or the prime minister, or the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies?

I, for one, have not heard any official proposing the disbanding of the Lebanese Forces. Not one official has even come close to expressing such a notion. It is evident that we have to live according to the country's laws, but we refuse to live according to the law of the jungle.

Dr. Ja'ja' was asked: Returning to the security source, we would like answers to the accusations the he made, particularly the charge that the Lebanese Forces are not interested in politics, but are an intelligence service that is still in operation.

Dr. Ja'ja' answered by saying: If I wanted to respond to some of the points made by anonymous security sources—for example, the claim that I do not want to engage in politics—I would ask this: What am I involved in, then? I am specifically involved in politics. It is because I am involved in politics that they [not further specified] deal with us in the way that we have seen of late. According to them, we do not want to participate in political life, but indulge in intelligence work. This is a serious accusation.

The individual making such allegations is not weighing his statements carefully. If he has evidence but is still silent, then he is remiss in his security duties. If he has no evidence and is not sure of what he is saying, he is committing a serious offense against political and public freedoms in this country. No official is entitled to make random accusations against any political party or individual.

Ja'ja' added: What I do not understand is why every time an incident occurs, accusations are leveled against us. For two years or more the authorities have been saying that I detain people at will. I still remember the uproar that arose after the Israeli attack last July or August in the south. At that time, the authorities made large-scale sweeps and searched the homes of Lebanese Forces' officials. They just use the Lebanese Forces as a whipping boy.

Ja'ja' said: If an attack happens in the south, it is the Lebanese Forces. If an explosion happens in the American University of Beirut, it is the Lebanese Forces. If the Phalangist Headquarters is blown up, it is the Lebanese Forces. The bombing in Sayyidat al-Najat Church: The Lebanese Forces. If a citizen beats up his neighbor in Ba'labakk: The Lebanese Forces. All these accusations are groundless. It is clear that we are up against a deliberate smear campaign.

What I want to say is that they have repeatedly made accusations against the Lebanese Forces. They prejudice us and then carry out searches and arrests. What good did the arrest of thousands of young Lebanese Forces' supporters do after the Israeli attack in the south? The pretext for these campaigns—if I remember right—was that there was another Israeli attack on the home front. Did I call for an Israeli attack against the south? They

claimed to be making preparations to confront Israeli attacks? Fine. What have they found out?

They have made big accusations, serious accusations. This is how we see it. They made serious and untrue accusations against us. Had such charges been made against any other individual or party in Lebanon, we would have found them unacceptable, particularly because they were designed to mislead. Underlying these accusations is a scheme to bully the Lebanese Forces.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: Some people wonder why all this uproar over the Ghidras issue. The state has two stories it is trying to propagate. According to a statement issued by the Lebanese state, the first story is that the recent security measures are part of the general security plan in Lebanon. If this is the case, why is the state angry? Is the Army not entitled to set up roadblocks on any road?

According to the state's second version, there are fugitives and wanted people; hence they are confusing things. Officials say that there are fugitives, wanted people, explosives experts, and suspects, and that all those are in Ghidras. I will respond to each claim.

As for the first version, Dr. Ja'ja' said: First of all, the state cannot just level accusations against anyone, because there is a judiciary in Lebanon. As long as there is a judiciary system in Lebanon, the current events are impermissible. Accordingly, why is the state not naming the defendants, listing all the incidents incriminating the defendants, and bringing them to trial? As you know, when such steps are taken, the families of the defendants will appoint a defense lawyer and the state will appoint a public prosecutor. This is a procedure applicable throughout the entire world. Dr. Ja'ja' said that all that the state has said is absolutely impractical and inconclusive.

As for the second version, Dr. Ja'ja' answered: All the accusations leveled by the state as a pretext for its security deployment in Ghidras are, in my opinion, not true. All these accusations are aimed at curbing the political activities in Ghidras. Some officials say that there are wanted people in Ghidras. If, for the sake of argument, we do have wanted people here, let the state send the police here. How can a wanted person be told that he is wanted? If the state thinks that I have wanted people here and if it knows their names, let the state send me a list of names.

Dr. Ja'ja' added: Nobody has talked to us about this issue. I dare say that no official, regardless of his level, had talked to me or to any official in the Lebanese Forces about the wanted people. Therefore, this issue is not under discussion.

In answer to a question of whether Dr. Ja'ja' believes that there is both a political authority and a military authority in Lebanon, he said: I do not want to get involved in such issues. But the responsibility for the approach the state is currently taking should be shouldered by the political authority. I consider this authority

responsible for what is taking place in Ghidras. I urge the interior minister, who is responsible for internal security, to take charge of this issue. We also demand that this minister behave as an interior minister should, because he is directly concerned with the issue. The days of militias are over and no one is allowed to behave as a militiaman. Mirhij must behave as an interior minister. He must tell us what is required, or else we have the right to ask him about all these measures around Ghidras.

In response to a question about the extent of the current measures, Dr. Ja'ja' said: I have no idea. But Lebanon will not remain without political liberties. I urge the state politicians to understand the magnitude of what happened. I urge them to resolve it in the best possible way, or else they will be held historically responsible for Lebanon's decline.

Asked about rumors that Samir Ja'ja' will end up in exile abroad, he said: No, this is absolutely not true. Our political stand will not change. There is no reason for anyone to worry, because the current rumors will backfire on those who spread them. They may not care about public opinion, but we do care a lot about it.

To another question of whether he and Patriarch Sfayr share the same stand and whether he expects that pressures will be brought to bear on the patriarch, Dr. Ja'ja' said: I hope the opposite will occur and that no pressures will be put on him. I also hope that all the pressures on us will end as soon as possible, because the pressures will destroy Lebanon. Lebanon will only be built by every word that is expressed under the canopy of freedom.

Security Authorities Continue Measures To Curb Crimes

NC1303074294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The security authorities continued measures and steps that are aimed at establishing security and curbing the recent wave of rumors. Security measures were intensified around mosques during the past few hours. Army units erected roadblocks in several areas of the capital and suburbs as part of these measures.

Meanwhile, the newspaper AL-DIYAR cites the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY as saying that the arrests constitute a preventive security step within the framework of the series of measures adopted by the security commanders during their coordination meetings following the explosions and assassination incidents as well as other security violations.

The paper adds that some of the detained persons include explosives experts who could shed light on the identity of some criminals involved in the recent explosions. AL-DIYAR notes that some of the detained had constant contact and consultations with Ghidras, and they had also formed security networks in previous times. The paper says that the security measures aim to

halt the state of confusion and curb the waves of rumors that preceded and accompanied the explosions.

Grenade Explodes Near British Embassy

NC1403083794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] According to a security report, a hand grenade exploded near the British Embassy in al-Rabiyah last night, causing material damage. In Burj Hammud, a hand grenade has exploded near the Shahbaz shop, causing material damage.

Further on Bombing

NC1403113894 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, March 14 (AFP)—Unidentified assailants hurled a hand grenade at a restaurant in an Armenian neighborhood here early Monday causing damage but no casualties, police said.

But they denied a local radio report that a grenade exploded overnight Sunday 200 meters (yards) from the British embassy in the residential hills of Rabiyah, overlooking Beirut.

A spokesman for the embassy refused to comment on the report.

The dawn attack targetted the Shahbaz restaurant in Burj Hammud, a popular neighborhood in Beirut's Christian northern suburbs. Police said the grenade caused slight damage but that the restaurant was empty at the time.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was politically motivated or the result of a personal dispute.

A series of bombings in recent weeks has heightened fears of a resumption of terror attacks in Lebanon, where Pope John Paul II is due to visit in May.

Lebanon's Christian community feels it is the target of these attacks, which the government said were aimed at destabilising security in Lebanon.

The Lebanese army has stepped up patrols and security checks around churches, mosques and schools after a bomb ripped through a church during Sunday mass on February 27, killing nine people and wounding 55 others.

Last week a six-kilogram (13-pound) gift-wrapped bomb was defused on the doorstep of the French cultural center in the port city of Juniyah, in Lebanon's Christian heartland.

Fadlallah: Church Blast To 'Divert' Lebanese

NC1103140594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the Sayyidat al-Najat explosion was meant to be a mine undercutting the Lebanese people, because what was required was to create a limited security threat that would then be turned into a political earthquake to divert the attention of the people from economic issues to concentrate on security matters.

He said violating security harms both Christians and Muslims. He noted that whoever throws a bomb at a church will also do the same to a mosque. Whoever places a bomb near a cultural center somewhere will also place it in a cultural center here.

Knesset Member Darawshah on Prospects for Peace*JN1103104894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, member of the Israeli Knesset and head of the Israeli Arab delegation, by unidentified Syrian Arab Television correspondent in Damascus on 10 March—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Syrian Arab Television is pleased to host 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, who has led a delegation of Arabs of Palestine to offer condolences to their kinsfolk in Syria. Syrian Arab Television welcomes you to your homeland Syria.

[Darawshah] Thank you. I also thank all our kinsfolk in Syria, this sisterly country. We are proud of this country, of its president, of its steadfastness, and of its continuous struggle.

[Reporter] Let us begin with the following issue: Syria and the Syrian stand, vis-a-vis the Palestine question and the Palestinians themselves, have a special place among our kinsfolk in Palestine. How do you explain this feeling which prompted you to come to Syria to offer condolences to your people here?

[Darawshah] As part of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people, we are linked with our Arab nation through strong ties of Arabism, blood, and sincere friendship, as well as through the desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. We are closely following all developments related to the peace issue within the framework of the Arab-Israeli talks, as well as the distinguished Syrian stand and the true peace adopted by President al-Asad and the Syrian Government and largely supported by the Syrians. We are following these matters with satisfaction and with support. At the same time, we feel that this stand represents Arab dignity and pride. There is a desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, but without relinquishing any Arab rights. Therefore, when we heard about the loss of martyr Basil al-Asad we, the sons of this nation, were stricken by the event and felt it to be the tragedy of all of us. We felt that we were dutybound to come to offer condolences to the president, to his family, to the Syrian Government, and to the fraternal Syrian people.

I am very grateful and greatly appreciate the fact that His Excellency President al-Asad agreed to allow the delegation to come to Syria to offer condolences. We were pleased with this because we, the Palestinians inside Israel, have suffered from the long siege not only by the Israeli Government but also by the Arab world which has not treated us fairly. We had been prevented from entering the Arab world. This is a good beginning and a positive step which we truly praise. We also thank President Hafiz al-Asad for this.

[Reporter] You have spoken in your answer about peace and the desire to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

You are up-to-date on the stands of Israel vis-a-vis the peace process. Does peace have a chance? What are the obstacles to peace? Is Israel serious in its efforts?

[Darawshah] I would like to say that the stand of this Israeli Government is better than the stand of the Shamir government. However, although the Rabin government has created better circumstances at the negotiating table, it has not made the required concessions to give a momentum to the peace process.

The abstruse obstacle lies in the fact that the Israeli Government has thus far not declared openly that it is ready to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, one they deserve just like any other people under the sun. Therefore, we call for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace and for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, southern Lebanon, the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and the occupied Jordanian territories. Only then could a true atmosphere be created to push the peace process forward and to achieve full peace. This is what we are trying to make the Israeli Government understand. We say this from Damascus, and we also say the same thing in the Knesset in Jerusalem. We say it in Washington, in Paris, in Cairo, and everywhere. This is because the cause of right and justice is indivisible.

[Reporter] Mr. Darawshah, you know that the peace process, from the very beginning, was based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land for peace principle; namely, full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in return for full peace. Can either of the two parts of this equation be implemented without the other?

[Darawshah] There will be no peace under occupation. The continuation of occupation means the continuation of war, massacres, suppression, and repression. Furthermore, peace cannot be achieved with the continuation of settlements. What does settlement mean? It is a form of colonialism that occupies land, deprives people of their rights, and establishes settlements of the colonialist settlers who occupy the Arab land. Based on this, we say that there is an essential contradiction between peace and occupation, and between peace and settlements. The Israeli Government should announce its readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, dismantle settlements, and return all settlers to Israel within the 1967 border. There should be no negotiations, wrangling, and stubbornness over gaining land or over keeping settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

[Reporter] I wanted to ask you about settlements, and about this Israeli policy, whose results we are seeing now, and the best proof of this is the recent Ibrahimi Mosque massacre? Can settlements and peace, which Israel claims it wants, go together?

[Darawshah] We have always said, and I repeat that settlements constitute an unsurmountable obstacle to

peace. Peace will never be achieved with the continuation of settlements, especially since we are talking about an extremist group of settlers most of whom came from the United States or Russia. Those who came from the United States are really extremists. Most of them are affiliated with fascist rightist forces such as the racist Kakh movement, the Kahane movement, and the security on roads movement which carry out daily hostile acts against the sons of our Palestinian people in terms of killing, massacres, terrorism, demolishing houses, and indiscriminate firing. Regrettably, the Israeli Army forces and other security forces protect them, but they do not protect the Palestinians. They also supply them with arms and with all that they need. Even if they carry out barbaric and brutal acts against the Palestinians, they do not stand trial and they will not be arrested. We believe that the continuation of settlements conflicts with peace. The Israeli Government should openly announce that it is ready to evacuate the settlements.

[Reporter] Let us talk about the Israeli political structure with which you are in contact. What is your assessment of the stands of the government or the opposition regarding the peace process?

[Darawshah] So far the government coalition is narrow. It consists of 56 members of the Knesset—the Labor and Meretz Parties. It is supported by the Arab parties—the Arab Democratic Party and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. Together they form the so-called buffer [al-mani'ah] bloc which consists of 61 members of the Knesset. Yitzhaq Rabin is attempting to expand his government. It seems that he has succeeded in this and he is expected to announce at the Knesset on Monday the return of SHAS, the religious Eastern Jewish party, to the government coalition. This party has six members. Thus, the coalition government will consist of 62 members. If the government continues to receive the support of the Arab parties the government will win a big majority, 67 members of the Knesset. This majority would enable the government to continue the peace process and to make concessions that will respond to the true Arab demands; that is, the demands of the Palestinian people and the regional states—Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Therefore, the government will have more parliamentary support than today. However, despite this ...

[Reporter, interrupting] Excuse me Mr. Darawshah, Rabin's attempts to expand the coalition by including Tzomet and others have specific objectives and repercussions. In addition to making decisions, which you called concessions, but we do not, the expansion of the coalition will have specific repercussions, because these groups have objectives and demands. How will Rabin's objective match the objectives of these groups?

[Darawshah] Before I came to Syria, when I was asked about including Tzomet or Mafdal, I said that this is a maneuver by Yitzhaq Rabin to return the Shas to the government and to weaken the effect of the left-wing movement Meretz and the Arab parties within the buffer

block. He wants to enjoy more support within the Knesset. He does not want the Arab members of the Knesset to have a larger effect. At the same time, he wants to go to Washington with a broader government and coalition. I also believe that if he wants to take certain steps against the settlers—something which he is required to do—he needs more support from the Knesset. He does not want others to say that he is taking these steps or embarking on these peaceful operations with a government that depends on Arab votes in the Knesset. He wants to say—and he said it publicly—that he seeks to embark on steps through a government coalition, depending on Jewish votes. We say this is a racist approach. He cannot end our existence in this method. At the same time, we support expanding the coalition if Shas joins the coalition. If Rabin agrees to let Tzomet or Mafdal, two extremist parties hostile to the Arabs inside and to the whole Arab nation, join the coalition, we will withdraw our support for the government and present a no-confidence motion in an attempt to topple the government. We have always been part of the buffer block to prevent the right-wing parties from reaching the government, not for supporting the right wing inside the government. I think that the peace process will continue despite the existing difficulties.

But Yitzhaq Rabin is required first to state that he is prepared to accept the formula which President Hafiz al-Asad stated yesterday during his meeting with us. He stated—frankly, publicly, and in a courageous and dignified manner—that we support the complete peace in return for complete withdrawal and the land-for-peace formula. This clarity, this clear strategic view of peace, dictates that the Israeli Government should take a stand.

[Reporter] Mr. Darawshah, your statements are very precise on Israel's attempts to avoid Syria's position, especially what happened in Geneva. Before Geneva, Israel tried to circumvent what would happen in Geneva because it sensed Syria's courageous and clear position. Can you explain the future strategies in the light of what happened in Geneva and Syria's stands?

[Darawshah] In his meeting with President Clinton in Geneva, President al-Asad in fact represented the Arab nation. He represented its aspirations and the position that reflects the will of this nation and its aspirations to secure a better future and achieve a just and comprehensive peace, as well as Arab dignity. Therefore, we were all happy to see the president speaking in Geneva and meeting with the president of the most powerful country in the world, the United States, and representing with dignity and pride this nation, this deep-rooted nation, the Arab nation, of which we are proud to be part.

I believe he was clear and forthright when he stated the Arab nation's stand on peace and the peace position of the Syrian people and government. But, Israel attempted to conceal this position and avoid making a positive stand that corresponds to that position. Therefore, they tried to undervalue the president's statements. The Israeli foreign minister's reaction today to President

Hafiz al-Asad's statements yesterday on the peace strategy and the complete withdrawal in return for complete peace was lukewarm because he does not want to show the Israeli people the crystal-clear fact that Syria wants peace, a just and comprehensive peace, a peace of the brave, a peace that was publicly stated by President Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva and yesterday during his meeting with the delegation that came to offer condolences to him.

[Reporter] Mr. Darawshah, let us return to the Zionist political structure and Zionist thought. Zionism, as you well know, is standing at a crossroads. This does not mean abandoning Zionism. Old Zionism is known, but what is new in the Zionist thought and direction?

[Darawshah] There is a split today inside Zionism and inside the Israeli political structure, and even inside the world's Jewish and Zionist movements. There is a rational trend that says we must achieve peace with the Arab world and we must end occupation. Some people affiliated with this trend—a strong segment indeed—support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel in the West bank and Gaza Strip. They also oppose settlement activities. The demonstrations staged by tens of thousands of people last Saturday was a joint demonstration by the Arab and Jewish peace-advocating forces, and we participated in it. That demonstration raised clear slogans: No to the horrendous massacres by settlers against the Palestinian people and no to the policy of suppression and repression. It also demanded the evacuation of settlements and the recognition of the just and comprehensive peace that would end occupation and guarantee the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. On the other hand, there is a significant trend in the Israeli opposition today. This represents the right-wing Israeli parties, led by the Likud. It also includes the Mafdal, Tzomet, and the extremist fascist party, Moleket, which advocates the transfer and the expulsion of Arabs.

These parties still raise the slogan of the integral land of Israel, from the sea to the river, and some of them say from the river to the river [from the Nile to the Euphrates]. These people do not want peace, and they only talk about peace for peace. This is a big camp within the Israeli political spectrum, but it is now in the opposition. Yitzhaq Rabin oscillates between the two wings: the left wing which calls for a just and comprehensive peace, and the extremist rightist wing which wants to keep all the occupied Arab territories, and does not want to concede an inch of land, as they say. What they want is the integral land of Israel. The Israeli Government's stand is linked with the pressures exerted by each camp. Rabin is for the coalition and for the left, but he himself has rightist trends. It is known that he is a hawk within the Labor Party, while the dove's wing is now led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his deputy Yosi Beilin, and some other ministers like Yosi Sarid, 'Uzi Bar'am, and others.

[Reporter] Mr. Darawshah, I, as an Arab citizen, along with the Arab citizen who is watching us now, cannot imagine that there are hawks and doves, or that there is any difference between Yosi Sarid, Yosi Beilin, Rabin, Shamir, Kahane, or even Begin. This is because we cannot distinguish between these people, especially since the Arab citizen is persecuted by all of them. Some citizens believe that a solution is impossible in light of Israel's policy of trying cancel out the other party [Palestinian people]. What is your comment?

[Darawshah] Despite all the criticism of Israeli policy, which I also criticize, I can understand Arab sentiments and feelings concerning everything that is related to the Israeli position. As an Arab, I also feel this inside me. However, I do not generalize. In politics, we must put facts down and work with the surgeon's scalpel. We must cut things and analyze them with our own Arab scalpel. We must examine things very carefully. There is a panoramic view, which I do not dismiss, but, in order to establish this general approach for the Arab nation, we must be aware of the details. Concerning the details, there is a difference between an Israeli Jew who believes in peace, wants peace, and demonstrates for peace, and calls for evacuating the settlements and the occupied Arab territories, and works for this, and an Israeli Jew who adheres to occupation, who does not offer anything in return for a peace agreement, and believes in the integral land of Israel. These differences do exist.

[Reporter] It could be the difference between one who murders brutally and another who murders with dexterity. Any way, let us hear from you Mr. Darawshah about our people in the occupied territories who suffer from discrimination. What do they say, how are they doing?

[Darawshah] The sons of our Palestinian people inside Israel, who number approximately 800,000 Palestinians, live mainly in the Galilee, the Triangle, and Negev, or in the mixed cities such as 'Akko, Haifa, Yafo, Lod, and al-Ramlah. We are the owners of the homeland, of the land. We did not leave our homeland, and we do not want to achieve the objective of the extremist Jews and settlers, that is transfer or expel Arabs.

Therefore, our slogan has been, and will continue to be: We will remain here, for as long as olives and thyme remain. We stick to our land, our homeland, with roots deep in our national soil. We also want to improve our quality and increase our number to be able to stand up against the major challenges facing us. We have suffered from racial discrimination and the military occupation policy and a military rule that was imposed on us until 1966. After the military rule ended, we began to struggle for civil and national rights. We were not recognized and most of our land was confiscated. We suffer from a flagrant policy of racial discrimination in all fields of life. I do not say this only here in Damascus. We say it also from every rostrum; that the racial discrimination policy is directed against any non-Jewish person inside Israel and we resist this racial policy.

Despite all this, we continue our struggle to gain further rights. At the same time, we do not relinquish our right to a dignified, free life and the right of our Palestinian people to gain their independence, freedom, and get rid of occupation.

[Reporter] You have mentioned the land and said you are the owners of the land. Mr. Darawshah, the anniversary of Land Day, 30 March, is approaching. What has happened to the Yisra'el Koenig Document, and much is it being implemented? And, what do you have to say about land and Land Day?

[Darawshah] So far, it has not been officially announced that the Koenig Document has been annulled. Even recently, it was announced that there are plans to build 26 new Jewish settlements in Galilee. The current Israeli Government says it stopped the confiscation of land. However, we fear another type of land confiscation, the confiscation of land for the so-called public interest; large highways, for example, the 300-meter wide inter-Israel highway which passes mostly in Arab land. This, therefore, is a new type of confiscation. At the same time, over 50 percent of the Arab lands that are owned by Palestinian Arab citizens have been confiscated since the establishment of Israel under feeble excuses, under various excuses and justifications—security, settlements, or the so-called public interest. Therefore, we call for the return of this land because most of it has not been utilized yet. The land must be returned to its rightful owners.

In our struggle to stick to our land, or what remained of the land because most of the land has very unfortunately been confiscated, we want to stick to our homeland. Any attempt to detach us from our land means an attempt to detach us from our homeland. Therefore, we stick to the land in order to survive. So, sticking to our land is a principal part of our steadfastness inside our homeland. The Land Day anniversary—this immortal day—comes to remind us that the land is still threatened and that land means honor. Therefore, we want to defend the land and the honor and the dignity of this nation.

[Reporter] Mr. Darawshah: During this visit, you visited al-Qunaytirah and met with President Hafiz al-Asad. Can you tell us what you have heard and seen. Let us start with your visit to al-Qunaytirah. What did al-Qunaytirah tell you?

[Darawshah] The destroyed, and at the same time, liberated, al-Qunaytirah, left a major, and, equally, a painful, impression on me. So did the destroyed houses, in which more than 50,000 Syrian Arabs citizens, who were forced to flee their homes, lived. This was a horrendous crime which is unacceptable to anyone.

I condemned this hideous crime and said: Peace and good-neighborly relations cannot be established in this way. Such an act will not produce positive results because it is a terrorist, aggressive, barbaric act against the Syrian people and the Arab nation. Israeli media organs asked me: How can you criticize the Israeli policy

on this issue in al-Qunaytirah? Why do you not say this in Jerusalem? I told them that I said this in Jerusalem and criticized the demolition of Arab villages. I am criticizing the demolition of al-Qunaytirah because this is a barbaric act which is not accepted at all.

I believe that the policy which prompted the Israeli Government to demolish al-Qunaytirah is an aggressive policy. I hope this will not be repeated in the future. This does not only mean occupying land; it also means obliterating Arab features.

[Reporter] As takes place in Palestine.

[Darawshah] As took place and is taking place in Palestine. Many Arab villages were demolished. In Galilee, in the village of (?ltsal) in Marj Ibn 'Amir, where I live, many houses are demolished. Many other Arab villages in the area remind us of the terrible tragedy. When I came and visited al-Qunaytirah, which was destroyed, I cried and was pained because this reminded me also of our Palestinian villages which were destroyed.

[Reporter] About your meeting with the president.

[Darawshah] The meeting gave us a feeling of the pride of affiliation with this nation, the genuine Arab nation of which we are proud. Despite all circumstances, we did not kneel down, we did not bow, and we were not humiliated. We adhered to our Palestinian and Arab identity and to our lofty pan-Arabism. Our meeting with the president reminded us of Arab loftiness, dignity, and free will. We were in front of a great man who has a strategic view and enlightened thinking. He is gentle and modest. In fact, all members of the delegation felt these positive characteristics during the meeting with President al-Asad. He increased our pride of our affiliation and our love for al-Asad's Syria and President al-Asad. We came to offer our condolences to his excellency and to our Syrian people. After offering our condolences we emerged from the meeting full of the feelings of faithful brotherly relations and genuine pan-Arabism, loftiness, and dignity represented by President al-Asad.

On this occasion, I would like to greet President Hafiz al-Asad, may God preserve him, the heroic fraternal Syrian people, our Palestinian people living in Syria in solidarity with the Syrian people. The Palestinians living in al-Yarmuk Camp and in other places told us they feel that Syria is their homeland and that they are given their rights like the Syrian citizens. Therefore, the delegation came on behalf of the Palestinian masses to offer condolences on the death of Basil al-Asad, martyr of the Arab nation. We heard and read a great deal about Basil's views, nationalism, and struggle. Again, we greatly appreciate President al-Asad, the Syrian Government, and the fraternal Syrian people. We are proud that we and the Syrian people are affiliated with this Arab nation. We wish Syria, this country of brave, and al-Asad, every progress.

[Reporter] Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah. You are welcome again in Syrian Arab Television and in your country Syria. Thank you.

[Darawshah] Thank you.

Commentary: Arabs Will Continue Process to End

JN1103145794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President al-Asad's speech to a delegation of the 1948 Palestinians has attracted the attention of all political and media circles. The address expressed unequivocal support for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and strongly refuted Israeli claims and attempts to mislead world public opinion. President al-Asad noted Syria is totally open to the peace process and has offered much to bring this process to a successful conclusion. He stressed that our delegation to the Washington talks is invested with authority and is very trustworthy. Israel's security claims and demands, such as upgrading the level of the talks, are part of a pattern of prevarication, extortion, and avoidance of the needs of peace, topped by withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian rights.

For over two years, Arab delegations have heard nothing from the Israelis except security pretexts. Upon reviewing documented events in UN reports and resolutions, we see that Israel has always been the aggressor. Since 1948, Israel has been denounced by the United Nations on all fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Today's events clearly reveal the continuation of this premeditated hostile Israeli policy. Southern Lebanon, for example, is exposed daily to thousands of Israeli shells from the ground, air, and sometimes the sea. Palestinian people are daily losing their sons, who are either killed or wounded by the bullets of the Israeli Army and settlers.

After luring the Palestinian negotiating side into an agreement whose clauses are almost entirely based on ways and means to protect Israeli security and Zionist settlers, Israel committed, at the hands of its settlers, the ugliest and most serious massacre of the modern age when it killed over 50 Palestinian citizens in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque while they were kneeling in prayer to God.

Since 1948, Israeli security has only been a pretext for aggression and expansion. Israel launched several wars in the name of this alleged security. It forcibly seized Arab lands and planted them with settlements. Today, it refuses to return these lands, even in exchange for peace and despite the fact that its settlements are insecure. No people in the world would remain silent over the usurpation of their land. Tomorrow, Israel might embark on new aggressions and expansions to protect the security of its settlements.

In the midst of this cycle of violence, which it itself created and which it sustains, Israel is naturally ignoring the fact that a real just and comprehensive peace in the region is the certain and ideal security guarantee.

In his speech to the Palestinian delegation, President al-Asad revealed that former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made every possible effort to sabotage the U.S. peace initiative, but was forced to go to the Madrid conference because of Syria's positive attitude, although he rejected the U.S. initiative. Rabin came, and people regarded this as a good omen. Substantive issues were discussed in the Washington talks, but no substantial progress was made due to continuing Israeli prevarication. The question that poses itself is: Is Rabin implementing Shamir's plan? It is known that Shamir disclosed he was planning for futile negotiations in Washington for at least five years, during which he would be able to Judaize all the occupied Arab territories and confront the world with an accomplished fact.

Washington's talks have entered their third year, but the Israeli position continues to be the same, not changing even an iota. Israel's lies and its rulers' falsehoods are countless. Israel has no word or pledge to honor. It claims peace and works against it. It claims a desire for a just settlement to the conflict in the region, but does all it can to fuel the conflict. It claims to protect Palestinians, but slaughters them. We should remember that a senior Israeli military commander refuted all the Rabin government's claims when he told the inquiry commission formed to investigate the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre that the Israeli Army had clear orders not to attack Zionist settlers, even if they were shooting at Arabs with an intent to kill. Thus, the settlers entered the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and committed the massacre before the very eyes and ears of the Israeli Army and with the instigation of the Israeli Government.

Building peace in the Middle East requires sincere intentions, sincere efforts, and a sincere commitment. The rulers of Israel possess none. Their intentions are aggressive and expansionist, their efforts do not go beyond attempts at delusion, and their commitment is missing. Thus far, they have not abided by UN principles and resolutions, to which they owe their existence.

The Arabs, however, will continue the peace process to the end and until everyone in this world is convinced that Israel and peace are at odds.

Columnist Blames Rabin for Hebron, Beirut Attacks

JN1203160894 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 1 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Rahim: "Two Crimes With One Aim;" from the "With the Events" column]

[Text] The Lebanese Sayyidat al-Najat Church was the target of a horrible crime last Sunday, just 48 hours after the hideous crime which Israeli settlers had committed

in the Ibrahimi Mosque in occupied Palestine with the cooperation of the occupation army.

What is clear from both crimes is: First, Israel is launching an unprecedented war of annihilation against the Lebanese and the Palestinians aimed at sabotaging Lebanese national unity and preventing the reconstruction of Lebanon on the one hand, and directing a crushing blow to the peace efforts by attacking Muslim and Christian worshippers and spreading an atmosphere of religious hostility in the service of the opportunist Jewish interests on the other.

Second, the crimes in Hebron and Beirut followed Israeli threats, which were also directed by the Zionist murder organ headed by Yitzhaq Rabin. These threats were strongly directed at Lebanon, and the world had expected a large-scale Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. But Zionist militarism has struck at an unexpected place—the Sayyidat al-Najat Church—with a very clear aim, which is to cover up its crime in the Ibrahimi Mosque and to create an atmosphere of chaos in Lebanon in order to undermine the stability and security which that country is enjoying in the era of legitimacy and the al-Ta'if Agreement.

On the other hand, now that secret and open talks with the PLO have led to the Cairo agreement, which was rejected by Palestinian popular forces and organizations, and the intifadah has intensified in a serious, qualitative manner threatening to end the series of concessions which are being made to Israel, Israel has resorted as usual to a strike, which even the Nazis would have been ashamed of, at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in order to intimidate the Palestinians and stop their intifadah, just as it did in Dayr Yasin during the establishment of the Zionist entity, believing that it could achieve now what it achieved then. Israel tried to cover up its crime by placing the responsibility on other extremist forces. But, it seems to have forgotten that the whole world knows that arming and training settlers is done by the Israeli security organs and so the Israeli war ministry cannot be entirely absolved from encouraging the crime the murder plans.

U.S., UN 'Silence' Over Mosque Massacre Assailed

JN1203095494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Silence Over Terrorism," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes on the UN Security Council's delay of its deliberations to adopt a clear and decisive resolution on confronting Israel's state terrorism following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre two weeks ago.

AL-THAWRAH says: Calls on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities, to issue an appropriate resolution, and to implement this resolution within a specific period of time are due to the fact that Israel has continued its policy of occupation and aggression, and that it has continued to evade discussion of any issue related to the substance of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: President al-Asad has stressed the importance of dealing with the bases of peace process to the Palestinian delegation, to U.S. President Bill Clinton at the Geneva summit, and to all officials and delegations that have come to Syria or contacted its leadership. He has also stressed that the Arabs accepted the U.S. initiative because they viewed it as a clear initiative based on the land for peace formula always stressed by the Arab side based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-THAWRAH also notes that President Hafiz al-Asad's address to the Palestinian delegation has proved once again that Syria is committed to the constants of a just and comprehensive peace, that Syria will not submit to any pressure or blackmail, and that it will not relinquish any of the Arabs' rights. Despite all this, Syria wants a comprehensive and full peace. If it is not comprehensive, then it is not peace. We, the Arabs, constitute one nation and our position is very strong. We have a claim to a right.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: In light of this, the UN Security Council, particularly the United States, should deal decisively with Israel alone, especially since developments before and after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre have proven that Yitzhaq Rabin's government is implementing the Shamir government's plan to prolong the talks. It has continued to execute the expansionist Zionist plan of building settlements and of killing the Palestinians. The occupation army's soldiers and officers admitted this when they spoke about the strict orders they received to escalate the killing of Palestinians and to give a free hand to the settlers to kill instead of disarming and expelling them, along with their settlements, from the occupied territories.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Agrees to 15-day Cease-Fire

LD1303195994 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1915 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Afghan President Rabbani agreed today to a 15-day cease-fire, but it was not clear whether his main rivals would support the truce or carry on rocketing the battered capital.

Despite Rabbani's plea, most people expect more fighting. Countless cease-fire agreements have collapsed and the current fighting is perhaps the most intense since the ousting of the communist government in 1992.

The latest cease-fire plan has been negotiated by military and political leaders from southwestern Afghanistan who recently arrived in Kabul. Since the fighting started 1 January, at least 1,000 people have been killed, more than 12,000 have been wounded, and some 600,000 have been driven from their homes.

Islamabad Reports 'Fierce Fighting' in North

BK1103144294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Fierce fighting between the rival factions has been reported in northern Afghanistan, including some parts of Baghlan Province. Government and opposition warplanes bombarded each other's positions in Baghlan Province.

Government Forces Repel Another Attack

LD1103151394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] An abortive attack by the infamous militia of Karmal-Dostam-Hekmatyar, which was launched last night from the direction of Qabelbay and Yakatut [east of Kabul] on positions of the Islamic Army, has been repulsed. A responsible source of the General Command of Kabul Garrison reported to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that last night's attack of the infamous militia of Golboddin and Dostam, who have been disappointed by their continued defeats, met—as on previous occasions—with strong resistance of mujahedin and the Islamic Army of Afghanistan. The raiders were forced to retreat. As a result of this abortive attack a number of the infamous militia were either killed or injured, and a quantity of their ammunition such as 82mm artillery shells, mortar shells, and rockets have been taken as booty.

In retaliation for the failure of their assault, the infamous militia again targeted residential areas. Five residences were destroyed as a result of the firing of ten rockets by them. No loss of life was reported from the rocket attack.

Civilians Killed in Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD1203173794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Last night and today, the Golboddin-Dostum militia martyred a number of our innocent compatriots by firing lethal rockets into the residential areas of Kabul. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that as a result of this rocket attack by the militia, a number of our compatriots were also injured and were taken to hospitals for treatment.

Similarly, as a result of rocket attacks and the firing of mortar shells into residential areas, which continued during today, much damage has been inflicted on public utility institutions, on residents, and public property.

In response to the savage rocket attacks by the militia, the Islamic Afghan Army's artillery delivered crushing blows on the bases of the enemy in Maranjan hill and Bala-Hesar. As a result a number of the militia were killed and a number of their positions were destroyed. The savage rocket attack by the Golboddin-Dostum militia has no justification but their defeat. [passage omitted]

India

New Delhi Renews Dialogue Offer With Pakistan

BK1103160794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi today renewed its offer to have a dialogue with Islamabad at various levels to resolve bilateral differences. It has, however, rejected the suggestion for allowing any fact-finding team of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to visit Jammu and Kashmir. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and his deputy Mr. Salman Khurshid have expressed the hope that Pakistan will now return to bilateral dialogue following its setback in Geneva. Mr. Dinesh Singh told reporters that New Delhi is waiting to hear from Pakistan about the resumption of the foreign secretary-level talks.

On the outcome of the UN Human Rights Commission meeting, the external affairs minister said India has been able to convince international community about the false propaganda on alleged human rights violations in Kashmir. He said Iran, China, and the European Union, besides the United States, had advised Pakistan against pressing its resolution.

Replying to a question, Mr. Singh regretted Saudi Arabia's decision to cosponsor Pakistan's resolution. He made it clear that the help of China and Iran at the Geneva meet to India does not imply that a new axis is emerging in the region.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Khurshid, who returned from Geneva last night, also denied entering into a tripartite deal with Iran and China to

enable the withdrawal of the Pakistan-sponsored resolution. While ruling out any fact-finding mission of the ICO to Kashmir, he said India has invited ICO permanent representative in Geneva to visit New Delhi for discussions. He said it is wrong on the part of Pakistan to say that its resolution has been deferred to the next meeting. In fact, the resolution has lapsed, he said. Replying to a question, he said the leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, leading the Indian delegation, sent a clear signal that all sides in India speak with one voice on the Kashmir issue.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Vajpayee asked the government to consolidate the gains of the Geneva meet by taking concrete steps to restore normalcy in the Kashmir valley. He brushed aside Pakistan's claim that its resolution is yet alive and termed it as preposterous. Mr. Vajpayee said for the first time, the international community has come to know in full detail about the terrorist atrocities in Kashmir. Nongovernment agencies of the valley have also ably presented the correct picture to the delegates of the Geneva meet, Mr. Vajpayee added.

The Congress-I Working Committee has congratulated the prime minister on the country's success in thwarting Pakistan's resolution on Kashmir in Geneva. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen that the Congress-I has decided to launch a public awareness campaign on Dunkel proposals to counter the opposition propaganda. He said a five-member action committee is being set up to revamp its electoral machinery for the forthcoming assembly elections. Mr. Gadgil disclosed that the next session of the AICC [All India Congress-I Committee] will be held in Gujarat. He said the reports of the Karunakaran Committee and the Janardhan Committee on last assembly elections were discussed in detail.

Minister Rules Out Visit of Islamic Mission to Kashmir

BK1103090794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi has expressed the hope that Pakistan will now return to bilateral talks with India on the Kashmir issue following its setback in Geneva. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, told a press conference in New Delhi today that India had a clear margin to defeat Pakistan's resolution on Kashmir if it had been put to vote. Mr. Khurshid, who returned from Geneva last night, said that there was overwhelming opinion that the bilateral issue should not be raised at Human Rights Commission forum. He denied entering into any tripartite deal with Iran and China to enable withdrawal of the Pakistan-sponsored resolution. Mr. Khurshid also ruled out any fact-finding commission of the Islamic conference Organization to Kashmir. He, however, disclosed that India has invited the permanent representatives of the ICO at Geneva to visit New Delhi for discussions.

Commentary Views Possible Waiver of Pressler Amendment

BK1103040094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Commentary by Udhay Bhaskar]

[Text] The prime minister's observation to visiting U.S. senators that India will have to review and modify its defense policy if the United States resumes military aid to Pakistan by waiving the Pressler Amendment is both timely and perceptive. The implications and inferences of this one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment are many. The waiver, reported to be urged by some sections of the Clinton Administration, and this demonstration of sympathy for Pakistan is fraught with far-reaching implications for the stability and security of the Indian subcontinent.

According to one estimate, a waiver now would result in Pakistan acquiring modern weapons and surveillance platforms almost immediately. The more notable include the F-16 fighter aircraft and the P-3C Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft. The Pakistani Air Force already has about 35 F-16's in its inventory, and if the Pressler Amendment was to be waived, the strength of the F-16's would go up three-fold. In like fashion, the induction of the versatile Orion, which is Harpoon-capable, will be extremely destabilizing from India's perspective. In short, Pakistan will be able to receive modern lethal weapons for all its three armed forces by a way of high-tech helicopter gunships, fighter and reconnaissance aircraft, and guided missile frigates.

The impact such an induction would have on Indian defense policy and plans needs little reiteration, more so when the recent Indian budget revealed that this year's defense allocation has actually declined by about 10 crore rupees in real term since last year. But more than the conventional weaponry and hardware, what could be rather disturbing if the waiver is pushed through is the interference and impact on the nuclear question and the sponsorship of terrorism. The United States would in effect be endorsing Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapon program, and India apart, the impact in the rest of the region—including Iran and Central Asia—would be significant. Secondly, the United States either deliberately or unwittingly may be turning a blind eye to Pakistan's active role in state-sponsored terrorism—a fact that was clearly brought to the attention of the global community in the recent deliberations in Geneva. The last but far from the least important inference would be the nature of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship in the post-Cold War period.

In according this one-time waiver, which Senator Larry Pressler had been constrained to unequivocally caution against, the Clinton Administration may be signalling a specific military-security role for Pakistan in the larger U.S. gameplan. Such a development, were it to fructify, would indeed have an impact on the political-military contours of the entire region.

U.S. 'New Posture' Toward Country, Kashmir Examined*BK1403062894 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
2 Mar 94 p 8***[Article by Jagmohan: "Independent Kashmir"]**

[Text] Of late, there have been a few significant developments which indicate that the US is adopting a new posture towards India, particularly in relation to the Kashmir issue.

President Clinton, in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly on September 27, 1993, said: "Bloody ethnic, religious and civil wars were raging from Angola to Caucasus to Kashmir." On October 29, 1993, Robin Raphel, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, at a "background briefing" for the South Asian journalists, observed: "We do not recognise the instrument of accession as meaning that Kashmir is for ever an integral part of India....The people of Kashmir have got to be consulted in any kind of final settlement of the Kashmir dispute." A clarification, subsequently issued by the State Department, confirmed what was stated by Raphel. It did not change the content of the dish but merely the manner of serving it.

On December 27, 1993, President Clinton wrote to Ghulam Nabi Fai, 'Executive Director', Kashmiri-American Council, saying that he shared the latter's concern for human rights and looked forward to working with him to help bring peace in Kashmir. In reply to a letter from Congressmen Gary Condit and 15 others, President Clinton observed: "I am aware of the chronic tensions between the Indian Government and the Sikh militants, and share your desire for a peaceful solution that protects Sikh rights."

All these statements and letters, issued in a short span of about four months, clearly point to the direction in which the wind is blowing. President Clinton's address to the U.N. Assembly where he virtually equated Kashmir situation with that prevailing in former Yugoslavia and Somalia; his warm response to Fai, a self-styled interlocutor whose activities are funded by Pakistan, and who is fuelling terrorism in the Kashmir Valley; his reference to Sikh rights as if Sikhs are not like other Indian citizens; and Raphel's highly provocative observations, questioning even the validity of the Instrument of Accession, are all manifestations of U.S. increasing disposition to ignore Indian sensitivities, lean towards Pakistan and indicate, in the process, a subtle preference for independent or semi-independent Kashmir.

There are other straws in the wind which point in the same direction. On September 27-28, 1993, the Kashmir Bar Association organised a "Lawyers Meet" at which a series of resolutions were passed. One resolution (No. 5) says that the people should be given 'an option not to accede to either of the two countries, India or Pakistan'. Reading between the lines, it is evident that public

opinion is being created to secure modification of the U.N. resolutions and provide for the 'third option'— independent Kashmir. Efforts of this nature, there are reasonable grounds to believe, are being surreptitiously encouraged by U.S. policy-makers.

For the last two years, the U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, a 'think tank' funded by U.S. Congress, has been showing inordinate interest in Kashmir affairs. In continuation of the January 1993 meeting, another meeting was organised by the Institute in January 1994 and 15 non-officials from India, Pakistan and 'both parts of Kashmir', who are believed by the Institute to exercise influence over public opinion were invited. The 'framework' papers and pattern-of discussions, albeit informal, seem to suggest that the 'position, of Kashmiris as central actors' need to be given a 'top slot'. The intention was clear. It was to prepare a background for a change in the thinking of both India and Pakistan. One of the Indian participants, in an article written after the Washington meeting, argued: "How long can India be indifferent to the status damage it suffers as a result of the continuing blood-letting in Kashmir?"

Earlier, some academicians like Prof Cohen who have a substantial say in the formation of American policy on South Asia had begun arguing that "the road to accession to Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] runs through Kashmir", implying thereby that India's current difficulties with regard to the Valley could be used to pressurise it to sign the NPT.

Taking an overall view of the situation and long-term interests of the US in the region, its policy-makers seem to be seriously thinking that it would be best to have an independent or semi-independent Kashmir. Such a state could serve as an effective instrument for putting pressure on China, if the need for doing so arises in future. It could also help in acquiring a stronger foothold in five Central Asian Republics and manipulating events in Russia to prevent an unfriendly power-structure emerging there once again. Pakistan could become a client state to a greater degree and India's arm twisted more forcefully to sign the NPT.

The United States is seeing new opportunities for itself in the troubled waters of Kashmir and it is moving, albeit unobtrusively, to seize these. Its basic objective is to remain as the only superpower in the world. President Clinton, in his address to the U.N. General Assembly, made it clear: "The United States intended to remain engaged and to lead". An influential section of American academics have also been arguing that the "bear may be dead but snakes and scorpions still roam".

If India encourages U.S. moves on Kashmir with a determined stand and by mobilising strong opinion in its favour, the U.S. could well abandon or modify the course it has presently taken. After all, Washington cannot afford to incur the hostility of a nation of 880 million people. In this connection, it is worth recalling that when the die-hard Tory members of the British Parliament,

like R. A. Butler and Winston Churchill tried to browbeat India by espousing the cause of the Nizam of Hyderabad, the 'faithful ally of the empire', Sardar Patel firmly told them not to stand by the 'old world'. He made it clear: "It is only in goodwill spirit, and not on the malice and venom of Mr Churchill's tongue, that an enduring relationship of friendship can be built between India and Britain and other members of the Commonwealth." He thus successfully prevented Hyderabad, which he described as an 'ulcer in the abdomen of India', from becoming cancerous. Such a forthright and fearless stand towards Washington's new posture, I am sure, would help India in retrieving the situation, besides sending the right signals to the secessionists in the Valley.

Unfortunately, India is taking a characteristically meek stand. When President Clinton wrote to Fai, virtually ignoring the savagery of terrorism in Kashmir, I wish someone from our foreign office had invited his attention to what Senator Jackson said when the safety of American citizens was itself under terrorist threat. Jackson observed: "The idea that one person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter cannot be sanctioned. Freedom fighters or revolutionaries do not blow up buses containing non-combatants; terrorist murderers do. Freedom fighters do not assassinate innocent businessmen or hijack and hold hostage innocent men, women and children; terrorist murderers do. It is a disgrace that democracies should allow the treasured word 'freedom' to be associated with acts of terrorists."

Iran

President Notes Benefits of Ramadan During Sermon

LD1103143994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 11 Mar 94

[First Friday prayers sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 11 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In the first sermon I will briefly discuss the effects of prayers during the month of Ramadan and the self-development in those days. I will also devote the second sermon totally to the issue of Palestine and Jerusalem and the global effects of such an important issue. [passage omitted]

Our nation which pays attention to prayers and evaluates the effects of its self-discipline should also recognize the value of such practices and not permit the incorrect and immature analysis of some so-called intellectuals, which is in fact narrow mindedness, to enter their mind with the idea that spending energy and time on prayers and fasting can be the cause of underdevelopment in economic and other issues. Even if such prayers did not exist and let us say that we could enjoy a strong

economy, then we would have become like one of those advanced Western countries and that has never been our goal.

It is impossible to have a strong society without such basic foundations for the development of human beings in today's world. You can see how world arrogance and imperialism repeatedly deal violent blows to the Third World countries stopping them from getting up and standing on their own feet. We see the source of our resistance in prayers even if that might seem trivial and common to some, but prayers are deeply wise and constructive.

My point in this sermon is that we use this harvest that we have reaped from the holy month of Ramadan this year—like other years, it is not an exceptional year—to preserve the spirit of our piety throughout the year, especially since we are on the eve of a new year. With that same asset we are today rapidly taking the country forward in the face of so much conspiracy and mischief.

As the country's chief executive I say that without the presence of those earnest people on the scene the country could not advance, with all its enemies, with the method with which it is being rebuilt, and at this speed—that we were able to shrug off the new conspiracy of the arrogant powers about the fall of the price of oil and go on our way, I see the secret in those strong pillars of society and in the alertness of our people.

One cannot help but admire a nation 30 percent of whose income is taken away from it, but it continues its programs as normal and does not declare a state of emergency. Despite all the propaganda and wicked plans to dishearten the people—which one can sometimes hear from certain uninformed, or perhaps sincere, people inside the country—the society continues on its course.

We are now in the construction period. Our main slogan is construction. The blow they intended to deal us was to close that road to us. During the war they blockaded us to prevent us from obtaining arms. Or they created havoc inside the country to disrupt our security.

In the construction period they intend to take away the tools of our construction, which is the budget. But they see today that they have come unstuck. [passage omitted]

The great big shock wave with which they had planned to bring us to our knees has passed over this society like a breeze, and if there is any delay in some of the work the society is so aware that it can understand well. [passage omitted]

I hope that the world of Islam fathoms clearly this correct direction of Iran's movement and that it finds its way, as our nation has, in Islam, the Koran, worship, contact with God, self-sacrifice and hard work. [passage omitted]

President Delivers Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD1103173994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1148 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 11 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] With a mere glance, today one can easily grasp that Israel's mode of operation has always been to create fear and coercion and to displace people in order to settle Jews from all over the world in their place. Israel has not changed at all since the early days of its formation. If the old colonialist policy had undergone the slightest change during the past years, then there would be no need today to import into Israel Jews at hefty costs from Russia and the four corners of the globe.

Clearly then, Israel has not changed at all. It has maintained its colonialist identity, because it can hardly be anything else, and the loss of such an identity will definitely mean the destruction of the state of Israel. After all, Israel is a state which is made up of a few million nonindigenous people. It spends hefty amounts of money on defense and military hardware, and the country itself is situated in a narrow strip of land devoid of notable resources. Furthermore, it is encircled by its enemies as well as by 4 million refugees who once fled that land with the undying intention of returning to their homeland. Now how can such a country stand on its own two feet? It can survive only when major powers stand behind it. But why should the major powers support a particular country? Why should the Americans and the British pay money to Israel? Because they want to safeguard their interests, and they need Israel for that end.

Any person with a basic knowledge of the alphabet of politics and government understands that accepting Israel's existence in the region is equal to accepting the colonialists' regional interests. Israelis themselves fully understand that they are a tool in the hands of the colonialists. However, they have the same interests and are in fact a part of the colonialist entity. They think that the present situation is the only way for their survival.

It seems that the present thesis on peace has no meaning at all. This is to say that one cannot imagine that a country such as Israel with all its peculiarities can exist in a normal way among all the other countries who are host to hundreds of thousands of refugees, countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and others. In the PLO-Israel peace plan no thought has been given to the refugees. If the peace plan had contained one single clause about the problem of the refugees, then one could believe that something fundamental was being done. However, the refugee situation remains completely unresolved.

Nonetheless, the situation is such that a number of Islamic countries are encouraging and supporting the peace plan, while at the same time trying to make their nations believe in the illusion of peace. One cannot possibly believe that the leaders of the Islamic countries do not understand the facts. I personally do not believe that these individuals who understand everything in this world are incapable of comprehending this issue. So why do they do such things? This is something that only they can answer. This is in fact nothing but an act of suicide. After all, how can one accept an entity which is inherently colonialistic, and its whole reason for being is to serve the colonialists? How can such a regime live side by side our countries in a peaceful manner without threatening our interests? How can such a thing be possible?

When we speak such truthful words and when we provide such crystal-clear analyses, we are accused of being against peace. If there had been real peace, then nobody would object to it. The point is that we do not consider the present process as peace. How can one make peace with someone who enters one's house and occupies every room—from the kitchen to the bedrooms and reception rooms—leaves only the hallways and the storage rooms for the host and then calls for peace and peaceful coexistence in the house? How can that be possible?

This can only be possible if one side is very weak and accepts whatever it has been offered. But surely this cannot be called peace, and such an arrangement will certainly not need an accord. This is the problem with the Palestinians at present. So long as the Palestinians think that they can regain some of their rights, they will continue their efforts towards that end. Consequently there will be no inclination towards peace on any side. Moreover, Israel will not be satisfied with its gains. If Israel was to be satisfied, then it would not be present in Golan and Lebanon. Some people say: Look! Israel gave the Sinai back to Egypt. Yes! But at what price? The price was the disintegration of Arab unity. Israel might grant the same to Syria, but the price will also be the same. This is to say that by returning Golan to Syria, it will get rid of that country as a noteworthy force, like it did with Egypt. Then in the near future, there will be no one to resist Israel, especially in the light of what has happened to Iraq—due to the ignorance and foolishness of its leaders—depriving the Arab world of any party which Israel can fear. All in all, one certainly cannot term the present process as peace.

The methods, also, are the same. Of course we can also assess some positive issues there which have occurred, but unfortunately the Third World fails to make proper use of them. [passage omitted]

Israel's mode of operation has put paid to much of the claims of the colonialists and the arrogant ones. All their claims have been flouted without exception. Well if they want to publicize human rights, where can a more severe violation of human rights be found outside the Palestinian occupied territories? Scenes that reach the media in a retouched form! Would the world approach such

scenes in the same way had they happened in places like Iran or other states? It is obvious that those scenes is under their own supervision and they cast a favorable eye on them.

Weapons of mass destruction are the weapons of Westerners. Any country which seeks to provide itself with defensive or offensive power, they exert pressure: nuclear and chemical weapons. Israel has produced them all! It has nuclear arms as well as chemical and biological ones. They know all that. It has produced them with their [not further specified] money, not its own money.

Well, I have no clue as to what the slumbering Western world, their thinkers—themselves—think. How can they bear seeing their own ugly image in the mirror? On the one hand they are interfering in other countries for that reason and on the other their own puppet is producing nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons. And they announce that as well! Officially acknowledge that! The law throughout the world is that the occupier must ensure the security of the areas under his occupation. He has the responsibility. How well does Israel protect the people of that region? How can this massacre be justified? Those areas are called the occupied territories. You can see that there are still serious problems between Russia and Japan over a few islands—and this after all the time that has passed and the formal occupations. How can so much occupied territory be under the control of a small country? So many resolutions.... [pauses] The Security Council, the UN and the international community have all expressed condemnation, and Israel does not raise an eyebrow! And its friends don't say a word either. Can this occur in Iran? Did this happen to Iraq, which did what it did to Kuwait? They brought in armies and drove Iraq out of Kuwait. Why doesn't this happen to Israel? [passage omitted]

Is Israel really going to remain? I want to devote the last chapter of my talk to this issue. In my opinion: No, it definitely will not remain! [Crowd chants] Thank you very much. This entity which is the same as a foreign particle in a living body cannot last for long. Of course, it may remain for a while, as before. Some programs for the expansion of Israel may also be implemented. They may go forward a bit, but it will not remain. And in my opinion, the path to salvation is through Islam. The thing that can be effective, the thing that can keep the people on the scene, the thing that can prolong this long and dangerous jihad is this very same Islam. All other ideologies—patriotism, linguism [zaban dusti], cultural or geographical nationalism—their legs go wobbly along the path when they meet difficulties—and we have seen examples of this in many places. The thing that one is prepared to live for, to die for, to tolerate torture for, to suffer hunger and homelessness for, and remain steadfast, is this religious and Islamic spirit, and we have experienced this in Iran. Our experience is a very good experience. We have experienced this in our prisons during the shah's rule. We entered the prisons together

with the Marxists. In those very first days of interrogation, the Marxists gave up and the Muslims remained. [passage omitted]

Of course, Palestine alone cannot destroy Israel. We should not expect the people of Palestine to defeat Israel on their own. This is an idealistic imagination and a bit like wishing for a miracle. We don't have such miracles. Islamic support must be offered by all the world. The problem of Algeria should be resolved, the problem of Egypt should be resolved, the problem of Iraq should be resolved. The peoples of these countries should be frank and sincere, as are the people of Iran. They should be not be scared. The Americans and the British should be made to make a calculation and decide to either lose all the world of Islam or lose Israel. When that day comes... [pauses] We have the way for the victory of the Palestinians, and it is not an impossible path to take. Of course, it is a tempestuous sea, a dangerous desert, the path is very dangerous. [passage omitted]

Those who think that following the signing of a peace treaty the Muslims will stop are wrong. I believe that this might be a positive development. Let the governments sign peace treaties and let their peoples understand that their path is different from those governments. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Issues Statement Ending Ramadan

LD1203195894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] The following statement was released by the esteemed leader's office on observation of the crescent of the month of Shawwal:

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. May God accept the religious duty of fasting and prayers by all Muslim brothers and sisters. By congratulating the auspicious feast of Id al-Fitr to world Muslims, particularly to the dear nation of Iran, it is hereby announced that, according to reliable reports, the crescent of the month of Shawwal has been seen in Khuzestan and Esfahan Provinces. The esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, is certain that the month of Shawwal has begun. Tomorrow, 13 March, is herefore the first of Shawwal and the auspicious feast of Id al-Fitr; and the glorious Id al-Fitr prayers will be held all over the country tomorrow morning.

[Signed] The esteemed leader's office.

Khamene'i Delivers 'Id al-Fitr Sermon

LD1303133694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0900 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Second 'Id al-Fitr prayer sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in Tehran on 13 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

These days, in the political arena of the governments and powers of the world on the one hand, and the mass upon mass of the people of nations on the other, there exist beautiful things as well ugly ones. The awakening of the nations is a beautiful thing; the leaning toward Islam by the Muslim nations is a beautiful thing; the nontolerance of tyranny by the innocent ones is a beautiful thing. The ugly things are the tyranny of the tyrants, the bullying of the bullies, and the plotting, evil-heartedness, and malevolence toward nations.

Among the undesirable and ugly points in the world arena, in my view, there is one that is most ugly. Today I wish to emphasize that point so that the view of the Iranian nation becomes clear for all to see. The point is that we do not expect the bullies and thugs of the world to be good and not to behave like tyrants. We do, however, expect fairness and independence from the forums of the world. The United Nations is so called because it is a place which belongs to nations. It does not belong to governments, let alone to certain bullying, greedy governments of the world. Unfortunately the reality is something else today, and that is the very ugly point.

Of course we had already seen how the Security Council acts—the Security Council which is the principal decisionmaking body and the heart of the United Nations. We had realized how much that organization was in the hands of the superpowers in crucial moments, becoming theirs, rather than belonging to the nations. That was during the imposed war. When the imposed war came and Iraq violated our borders and entered several of our country's provinces we took our protest to the United Nations, as is usual. As usual, the Security Council should have issued a resolution condemning Iraq as the aggressor. It failed to do so. I waited several days. The Iraqi Army, taking advantage of our unsettled situation at that time, settled itself on our beloved country's soil, our beloved Islamic Iran—it seized several thousand kilometers—and then, and only then did the Security Council lift its head to utter a word. It issued a resolution. What was the resolution? Did it say that the aggressor must leave Iranian soil? Not at all. It issued a resolution to the effect that Iran and Iraq should declare a cease-fire. What does that mean? It means that the Iraqi Army has entered Iranian soil and now that it is the Iranian nation's turn for a heroic defense its hands must be tied; no one is to defend the country and the Iraqis should not be thrown out. That was the Security Council's resolution!

You know that for several years they said the same thing without condemning the aggressor. Of course our combatants, in not too long a period, within almost one and a half years, took back most of the land themselves. That was the precedent for us then.

A few years later Iraq's invasion of Kuwait took place. When Iraq invaded Kuwait there was no oppressed nation involved there: it was a question of the interests of America and the superpowers. You all saw how a first resolution was issued in a matter of hours, saying Iraq must get out of Kuwait. For years we had asked the Security Council to issue such a resolution against [as heard] us in the imposed war, but it would not do so. But within hours it issued that resolution on Kuwait.

Then the Security Council issued several resolutions, one immediately following the other, permitting the Americans to enter the Persian Gulf, wreck Iraq, and do what they liked. The Security Council resolutions on the Kuwaiti war are still in effect and still being implemented. We have seen that.

In recent months—once in the case of Bosnia—the Security Council should have been fair; we saw that it was not. Another time was in the case of the holy shrine of Abraham in occupied Palestine. The Muslim nations said they were prepared to send soldiers as UN troops, as a buffer between the Serbs and Bosnian Muslims. The Security Council said Muslims cannot go, because they are Muslims and may support one side. Of course, it was a wrong thing to say. The Muslims were going to mediate and act as a buffer, not to fight. Anyway, they said that, but at the same time they allowed Russian soldiers, who are obviously on friendly terms with the Serbs, to go as UN troops and act as a buffer.

What happened? Why did they not consider that the Russian soldiers are connected to the Serbs from a standpoint of religion and other ties? The world's magazines printed photographs of Russian tanks bearing the UN insignia entering the region, while the Serbs were shouting slogans, cheering, and clapping for them. That was one case.

Bosnian Muslims are still being sacrificed; the United Nations does not care a bit and the Security Council does not do its duty.

The second issue concerns this bloody tragedy at the shrine of Abraham. Israel should have been categorically condemned. It should have been punished, it should have been put on trial, it should have been forced to accept punishment. The United Nations should have done this, but it did not. The Security Council has not taken on its responsibility at all. What is the reason for this? The reason is the influence of big powers, led by America, in the Security Council and their influence on the secretary general himself. Let them know that this is the view of the Islamic Republic and the people of Iran. The secretary general himself....[pauses; crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to those who oppose the supreme jurisconsult," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

We do not have a particular enmity toward anyone. We respect world figures based on their dignity and position. The former UN secretary general came to Iran time after time. At that time, the president, the Majles speaker, and

Foreign Ministry officials all welcomed and respected him. If the secretary general carries out his duties, we will respect him. However, in our opinion, and in the opinion of the Iranian people, this present secretary general has not carried out his duties.

The future of these Iranian people is bright. The power of these people will increase day by day. The roots of these people will go deeper; their word will be more widely accepted in the world. Today you can see that this is true. Compared to 10 years ago, we are stronger today, we have more honor in the world. The people are more forthright, brave, and ready to follow the great path to the lofty aim, because of the blessings of Islam and the Koran.

I have one more point to raise at the end of my talk. Unfortunately, the issue of the hajj has not followed its proper course so far this year. The Saudi Government is placing obstacles in the way. And I do not know why. The Foreign Ministry, the Hajj Organization, the representative of the leader, the leader's mosque in Medina have made great efforts. Most of the work of the hajj should have ended by now, by the end of Ramadan. The Saudis are causing problems.

I don't know why they are doing this. Of course, we are assuming the best. We hope the Saudi authorities, God forbid, will not do anything to incur the wrath of the Iranian people. We hope they will not do anything to make the Muslims of the world feel that the hajj is another tool in the hands of America and the big powers. This must not occur, and we hope it will not.

I hereby announce: Hajj is the right of Muslims. The house of God belongs to Muslims. [passage omitted] The house of God does not belong to anyone in particular. If anyone has the honor to manage the house of God, he should thank God and provide facilities for the peoples to make their trip to Mecca and not place obstacles in their path. These great and faithful people, with the interest and enthusiasm that they have to visit the house of God, the pure grave of the great prophet, and the graves of the great imams [a'emmeh-ye baqih], peace be upon them, deserve to be placed at the head of the queue of other peoples in order to perform the hajj and visit the house of God.

We ask God....[pauses] The hajj issue is an Islamic issue; it should remain Islamic. It should not be sacrificed for the international political games of arrogance. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Condemns UN Human Rights Resolution

LD1103172594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement today describing the action taken by the UN Human Rights Commission as irresponsible and strongly condemned it.

In a vote, the UN Human Rights Commission, despite the fact that the majority of its members voted against or abstained, approved a resolution on the violation of human rights in Iran, supported only by Western countries.

The statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry stresses: Those who issued the resolution have remained silent in the face of the Zionist regime's crimes at the al-Khalil mosque and have even stopped, in the first round of its debate, a resolution that would have condemned the Zionist regime.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry statement also mentions: It has been proved to the world that the Western countries who support such resolutions, are themselves practically assisting the anti-human crimes and the clear violation of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the heart of Europe, through their deception.

The statement by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that the Iranian punishment laws are based on the Islamic legal concepts, accepted and respected by over 1 billion world Muslims, and such resolutions not only have no credibility or legitimacy, but will also damage the credibility of such forums.

Special Security Measures Slated for New Year Period

LD1203140094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] With the dispatch of 1,153 air and ground patrol units, the security forces have started the implementation of a special scheme for the period of Nowruz [Persian new year celebrations, starting 21 March].

At a news conference today, Brigadier General Seyfolahi, the security forces commander, also announced: During the Nowruz period, the security forces' patrol units will be dispatched to their designated areas, according to a prearranged plan. He then set out to describe the security forces' activities during 1372 [year ending 20 March 1994] and said: During this year, by closing the country's eastern borders, the security forces succeeded in discovering 90 tonnes of narcotics of various types. Furthermore, in this connection 459 leaders of gangs involved in narcotics distribution were arrested.

The security forces commander added: During the past year, security forces personnel were also able to confiscate 10,000 firearms which had been brought into the country illegally. Moreover, during 1372, 51,000 antique objects of various kinds were recovered from several gangs who had intended to take them out of the country.

He said: The security forces have been very active in the four border provinces of the country, fighting the import of contraband goods and succeeding in doubling the volume of its confiscations in comparison with last year.

The security forces commander also said: Legal proceedings will be taken against individuals who produce and distribute fireworks.

Japan, Germany Agree To Reschedule Debts

LD1203121794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has signed two credit agreements with Germany and Japan to pay off more than 50 percent of its postponed credits [e'tebarat-e ta'khir shodeh].

In a radio and television interview this morning, Mr. Adeli, the governor of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank, announced: Following negotiations with the representatives of some Japanese companies, an agreement was signed in the early hours of this morning, Tehran time, between an Iranian delegation from the Central Bank and representatives of the Japanese companies. He added: This document will provide Iran with more than \$2 billion in credit to pay Japanese exporters. Mr. Adeli said: The credit is for a period of around two years and repayment period is three and a half years, which makes a total of five and a half years.

The Central Bank governor also said: Two weeks ago a similar \$2.6 billion agreement was signed with Germany, which will help our country pay off more than 50 percent of its postponed credits.

He said the cost of those credits is just over 4 percent per year. He stated that Central Bank delegations are currently holding talks with other countries to pave the way for negotiations. The people will be informed as soon as other agreements are signed. Mr. Adeli added: The signing of the documents allows Iran to postpone the expiry dates of its condensed and short-term credits [e'tebarat] which were not repaid in 1992, 1993, and 1994 due to the fall in oil prices.

He said: We expect to pay off all our postponed payments to exporters of those two countries within the next couple of months. Therefore goods which were not dispatched because of nonpayment will gradually be sent.

The Central Bank governor went on to say: A group of importers and production companies used to purchase their foreign currency needs in the free market to pay off their debts. With the payment of debts to foreign exporters there will no longer be any need to do that. He said the signing of the agreements will reduce cash purchases and cut foreign currency demands in the free market. He added: It is expected that some cases of limitation imposed by a number of countries on government insurance will resume. He stressed: Obviously countries that provide insurance cover to facilitate their trade transactions with Tehran will be given a greater share of the Iranian market in the future and will be given priority over other countries.

Candidate Proposed for Next OPEC Secretary General

LD1403103594 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Iran's representative to the OPEC board of governors, Hoseyn Kazempur Ardebili, has been proposed for the post of the secretary general of the organization. The three-year term of the present OPEC secretary general, Ahmad Subroto, is to terminate in the next few months.

The new secretary general will be elected in next OPEC session to be held in Vienna on March 25.

According to the oil minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, if a rotating policy is adopted, it will be Iran's turn to chair the organization. However, he added, in case an alphabetic order is followed, the representative of Algeria would be elected.

Kazempur Ardebili is presently Iran's ambassador in Tokyo and is an expert in international oil policy. He has cooperated with OPEC for nine years as Iran's representative. He has also served as deputy oil minister for international affairs and head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for two years.

Meanwhile, Venezuela and Algeria have also proposed their candidates for the post.

Oil Expert Blames Saudi Overproduction for Low Prices

LD1403101294 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Saudi Arabia's overproduction, besides other factors such as the international economic recession, is responsible for the continued low oil price, said an oil expert here last week. A former high-ranking Oil Ministry official who requested anonymity told the bilingual weekly 'KAYHAN HAVA' that Saudi Arabia was producing about 9.5 million barrels per day, 1.5 million more than its official OPEC quota.

"If Saudi Arabia abides by the OPEC agreement and reduces its oil output, oil prices will jump up", he told the weekly.

Brent North Sea crude oil last week crashed to a low of dlr. 13.5 a barrel, its lowest level for six years. Oil prices further plummeted last week after OPEC members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council ended a meeting without reaching agreement to reduce their oil output. "There is no evidence to prove that Saudi Arabia will agree to a lower quota in the upcoming OPEC meeting", the former Oil Ministry official said.

ABRAR Commentary Views Issue of Iran-U.S. Talks

NC1303125694 *Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Mar 94 p 12*

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Bu ol-Hari: "Reasons for U.S. Request for Talks With Iran"]

[Text] Last week, the United States made two requests for improved relations with Iran and for talks with our country's officials. In view of the policy of erecting barriers against Iran as announced by the Bill Clinton Administration, the remarks by the high-level U.S. officials are worth pondering over for the following reasons:

Three views can be presented with regard to Washington's latest stance:

1. The victory of Russian President Yeltsin's opponents—that is, the communists and the nationalists—in the Russian parliamentary elections and the daily mounting impact of their viewpoints on the domestic and foreign policy making which has inspired apprehension in the United States and its allies.

Washington is concerned over the possibility of Yeltsin's opponents taking over power and the resumption of worldwide confrontation, which could endanger its interests. This is why in the past months we have witnessed moves by the United States, including suggested plans for collaboration for peace and extensive activity to prevent the revival of Russian influence in these regions.

These moves, which are aimed at creating a security belt as well as a quarantine around Moscow, encounter a vacuum in only one area—that is, Iran. This is because in the event of any anti-Western moves in Russia and the possibility of cooperation between the new leaders in Moscow with Tehran, the balance of power in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East will shift to the detriment of the West, especially since the oil routes in the Persian Gulf pass south of Iran.

2. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Central, and Southern Asia faced a power vacuum. The U.S. relations with Pakistan became strained. It does not have any influence in this particular region at present, and this situation has made its effects felt on other regions.

Meanwhile, even though the United States has endeavored to implement plans for the breakup of many countries in Asia, this is still the beginning. The efforts by the PRC, Iran, and India to initiate joint cooperation in the region can endanger U.S. interests. Meanwhile Washington is reviewing its frigid relations with Pakistan and by supporting it on the Kashmir issue it is seeking to fill the power vacuum. However, this will not give it much clout over the power triangle of Tehran, Beijing and New Delhi. Such a power triangle can shatter Washington's goal of domineering on the Asian continent.

3. The rising tide of Islamism in the Middle East has increased the danger of the downfall of the reactionary regimes, and this threatens the interests of the United States and its international allies, who are all seeking to serve their own interests. In addition, the rising tendency among the Palestinians to join groups such as the Hamas in the wake of the Hebron massacre could, in the view of the United States, be repeated in every part of the Middle East.

It is in the above perspective that we can view the renewed request on the part of Washington for talks and improved relations with Iran. This is an issue which by itself indicates the importance of Iran in international relations; and this will be enhanced further in the event of any regional or international upheaval.

Therefore, it is from this vantage point that the United States—taking into account the existing distinctive circumstances—wishes to create conditions necessary for an improvement of relations with Iran so that in the future it will not encounter dangerous situations on strategic issues.

This demands twice as much vigilance on our part so that we can utilize our geopolitical [preceding word in English] position in our approach to regional and international developments and be alert to U.S. ploys.

Commentary Notes U.S. Envoy's 'Failed' Mission to China

LD1403135494 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1056 GMT 14 Mar 94*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Chinese leaders have strongly protested against extensive Western, especially American, propaganda about the human rights situation in China during the visit of American Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Beijing. [passage omitted]

In line with America's former policies toward China, during his four-day visit to that country, Warren Christopher tried very hard to make use of the human rights issue in China as a means for extracting a number of economic and political concessions from Beijing. However, despite America's political deceptions on this issue, Christopher failed in his mission to China; because Chinese leaders know full well that the claims of White Office officials about defending human rights, freedom of expression and assembly, and the release of political prisoners, are nothing but political ploys. America's silence regarding manifest human rights violations by her own allies proves this point. [passage omitted]

The most important disagreements between Beijing and Washington, which started after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, have been due to the two countries' different perceptions of international developments and the new world order favored by America. The

two countries' different interpretations regarding the new polarization of power in the world, as well as the rapid growth in China's commercial exports and the expansion of cooperation between Tokyo and Beijing as two superior powers in East Asia constitute the roots of contradictions of interest between China and America, which have assumed more complex dimensions during the past few months.

During the past few years, the Asian countries of the Pacific Ocean rim have enjoyed the fastest economic growth in the world. In Washington's eyes those countries constitute a suitable market for helping the recovery of America's ailing economy. America, which is making every effort in order to gain access to that market, is worried about the loss of her market in that part of the world and China's excessive influence there.

The repetition of the allegations of human rights violations in China, even raising the issue of the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in that region, are in fact parts of Washington's attempts to achieve its goals.

By claiming to defend human rights and by exaggerating the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and even by increasing her pressures on her allies in the region, such as Japan and South Korea, America is trying to justify the necessity of her presence in those countries, which have always rejected American requests to open their markets to American goods.

The failure of Christopher's recent visit to Australia and Japan has been due to the rejection of American demands by those countries. During his visits Christopher did not succeed in extracting economic concessions from those two countries, which are regarded as being America's allies.

In any case, Christopher's failures during his visits to Australia, Japan, and subsequently China, demonstrates the fact that in the new international scene America is incapable of forcing her views upon powerful economic countries, whether those countries that are her allies or those that are opposed to her.

Israel's Objectives in Hebron Incident Noted

NC1303170494 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Mar 94 p 16

[Commentary by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "A Big Test"]

[Text] 1. Everything points to the fact that the massacre of worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque was not a spontaneous act by a group of "extremists" but the beginning of a series of steps that the Zionist Government is pursuing with a special objective in mind. To understand this, it is necessary to find out what this objective is.

2. We should look at the latest U.S.-Israeli actions in the region. What has been described as a peace "process" by

the Arabs only contains the word "peace," and it is pursuing specific objectives.

The first objective is to extinguish the burning flame of the intifadah, which has been one of the most dangerous political-social phenomena for Israel as well as for the United States and even some of the corrupt regimes in the region, and is considered to be yet another fruit of the Islamic revival process.

The second objective is the establishment of full security on all of Israel's borders. Like the Camp David Accord with Egypt, this issue should become the major pivot of all activities and should concentrate on a peace accord with Syria and the disarmament of the Hizballah.

The third objective is Israel's entry into the world of Islam, the consolidation of economic relations with the world of Islam, and the establishment of a social and political presence among the Muslims; and naturally the Zionist regime is more enthusiastic about entering the oil-rich Arab countries of the Persian Gulf than any other country. The reason for this is not the existence of petrodollars, but the absence of a native population and of a precise national identity in these countries—something that will accelerate and facilitate the possibility of Israel's entry there.

3. Israel's behavior throughout the talks shows that it is pursuing these three objectives. Before thinking about a conditional and limited autonomy for the Palestinians, Israel is thinking more about extinguishing the flame of the intifadah. But despite its unconditional surrender to Yasir 'Arafat, all its other arrangements have been upset because the intifadah is alive!

Israel's overly enthusiastic approach in consolidating its relations with the world of Islam and entering its markets is not a secret, and in this field—as in other fields—U.S. pressures on the Arabs, especially in the Persian Gulf, can be seen. But what is the situation like today? In one word, the U.S.-Israeli plan has been disgracefully defeated because the oppressed people of Palestine demand their rights and are extremely alert and experienced in this demand. And moreover, Islam is emerging again and the intifadah is the Islamic movement of the Palestinian people. Therefore, when the Zionists look at a child holding a stone in his hand in the streets of Hebron, Jerusalem, or Gaza, they multiply this into several million and what they see is a horrific nightmare. At no time has resistance against the Zionists been so strong in the world of Islam, and this is at a time when Israel is not threatened by any Arab army! Therefore, the pivotal policy of the Zionists is clear: the only way to preserve the current Zionist regime is to extinguish the intifadah. But how?

4. In the so-called peace process, Israel tried to fool the Palestinians by offering a conditional and limited autonomy. But this plot was foiled in its initial stages. Israel then chose a second path. It chose to do the same thing that the Christians did in Andalusia and what the Serbs are now doing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I strongly

refuse to use the phrase "racial cleansing" because it is an overt insult to human "power of speech" since this phrase has nothing to do with either "cleansing" or "race."

It is actually "barbarianism," which perpetrates a crime in the garb of Zionism. The Zionists, who have given up hope of persuading the Palestinians, have decided to resort to force to wind up matters. They are well aware that if this plan is to succeed, it should succeed today because tomorrow will be too late. They also know that they have an immense "opinion-making" machinery and all of the techniques of this machinery at their disposal and are using it in a bid to shape the opinion of the simple-minded people in the world. Also, they know that most of the Arabic and Islamic governments will be harnessed by the United States and that they sincerely want Israel to safeguard them from the great wave of Islamic revival, although they may pretend that they do not.

Therefore, the conclusion that I draw is:

First of all, the crime perpetrated at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque was not a solitary and simple act.

Second, the Zionist Government's plan is to pursue the objectives of the so-called peace process, and this is only the beginning of this plan.

Third, there is no doubt that the U.S. Government is fully aware of this new policy and that the necessary coordination with the West's propaganda machinery has been made by the Zionists' tentacles in this network.

The policy of hypocrisy and persuasion that existed in the first method—that is the process of talks—was thwarted by the brave Palestinians on their own. But how should the new policy of massacres and eradication be thwarted? The world of Islam should not remain only on the sidelines, as it has done in the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue, and merely issue statements. From the very beginning, it should impose the legitimacy of its decision, irrespective of what the UN Security Council does. Yes, the Muslim ummah is facing a big test.

Pakistan

Bhutto Comments on Raising Kashmir Issue at UN

BK1303091194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has said that after highlighting the Kashmir issue internationally at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Pakistan will now consider presenting a resolution on the issue at the United Nations. Talking to a group of foreign correspondents in Islamabad last night, she said that as long as India refuses to take appropriate steps to make the bilateral talks purposeful, we will continue to raise the

issue at the global level. She said that it is her government that successfully raised the Kashmir issue at international forums after the 1940's. I first raised the issue at the Islamic Conference Organization in 1990, and it was my government again that decided to raise it in Geneva, the prime minister said. We made the decision because it was a matter of principle, and it was the only means by which we could highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level, she added.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that the Kashmir issue was raised in an unprecedented manner in the past more than three decades. India had to agree to allow, though unwillingly, the Amnesty International and other human rights groups to visit occupied Kashmir. Despite its hesitation, India also had to agree to allow the ambassadors of Western and Nonaligned countries to visit Kashmir.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that regarding the resolution, India had promised us through Iran that it would allow the ambassadors of Islamic countries to visit occupied Kashmir. Fourteen countries expressed concern over the people of Jammu and Kashmir and violation of human rights when the voting on the resolution was deferred. The prime minister said that India is now renege on its promises, but we will not let it do that. India has lost any sympathy of the people of Jammu and Kashmir because Kashmir never remained a part of India. The future of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been decided, and the solution to the issue is not to send Indian troops there. The solution lies in granting the self-determination rights to the people of Kashmir, a goal to which Pakistan is committed.

Referring to Pakistan-U.S. relations, the prime minister said that the two countries are holding bilateral talks on ways to resolve all their issues. She said that some U.S. officials feel that the Pressler Amendment failed to realize the objective of nuclear nonproliferation, and we want the American people understand the implications of the amendment. Pakistan has displayed patience in this regard, and it should be rewarded for that.

Editorial Views India's 'Major Propaganda Victory'

BK1203103794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Loss of Face in Geneva"]

[Text] We have done it again. The much publicised initiative to seek international censure of human rights abuses in the Indian held Kashmir has been for the second time in quick succession held back at the eleventh hour. First it was the Indian offer of talks on Kashmir, and now the intervention of 16 countries, including our close allies Iran and China that has apparently deterred Islamabad from going whole hog in pursuit of its number one agenda in foreign relations. Ironically, the prime minister had only a few days ago asserted in categorical terms that come what may, Pakistan will go ahead with

its campaign for international recognition of the Kashmir cause, and the 'game of numbers' will not stand in its way. Whether it was an outright foreign policy debacle, as the Opposition would insist or a tactical retreat dictated by the compulsion of circumstances, as is likely to be offered as an alibi by the Foreign Office, Islamabad, to say the least, has been guilty of gross miscalculation in Geneva. And the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be made accountable for misleading the government and the people about the success of our campaign to win international support. No matter what diplomatic jargon has been used to describe our unceremonious retreat, we have, for all practical purposes, withdrawn our resolution from the Human Rights Commission. And whether we like it or not New Delhi has scored a major propaganda victory. Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali's contention that the objective to highlight Kashmir has been achieved and 'it has been a great victory for Pakistan since the resolution remains alive' simply does not hold and is certainly not good enough to explain away the failure of our initiatives on Kashmir. Perhaps it is time to review the entire gamut of our Kashmir strategy and withhold any fresh moves until we have undertaken a thorough stocktaking of our track record. It is of utmost importance that we should have the insight to discern where we had gone wrong in our understanding of world politics, and whether it was our lack of comprehension, or misplaced optimism on the righteousness of our cause. Is accent on human rights abuses a viable strategy to draw world attention to the Kashmir cause?

If the Americans have chosen to project themselves as the custodians of human rights, it does not mean that they are no longer selective in their concern for human rights abuses, and are ready for an even-handed approach to deal with all victims of repression. So is the case with their European allies who couldn't care less for rape, torture and mass killings let loose on Bosnian Muslims. We have to sooner than later clearly identify our 'constituency' in the international arena and design our moves to cater for their sensibilities. The third world countries do not in any case have an enviable human rights record, whether it is China or Iran or the vast majority of OIC countries. Human rights is not the kind of issue on which Pakistan can hope to muster support for the Kashmir cause, particularly when the US is trying to browbeat them on this score. In the wake of the embarrassment we have suffered and the despondency it may cause among the Kashmiri freedom-fighters, it would be in the fitness of things to weigh our gains and losses in foreign policy. Had we gone through with the vote would we be closer to our goal today? Would the world have rallied to our call of liberation of Kashmir, or would it have turned its back on us, as it seems to have done now?

Urdu Daily Defends Deferment of Kashmir Resolution

BK1203070294 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The Decision To Defer the Resolution"]

[Text] The resolution tabled by Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Commission to condemn the Indian atrocities in Kashmir has been deferred for one year. Such a decision would have to have been made in the wake of certain mediatory efforts of friendly countries—Iran and China. Iran has assured the Pakistani authorities that it will continue to work to help stop human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Apart from this, India has also agreed to allow a delegation comprising representatives of Muslim countries to visit Kashmir to assess and observe the situation on the ground and the human rights condition there.

Pakistan's decision to defer the resolution by one year is certainly not an exemplary decision, because, in our opinion, the adoption of the resolution would have been the best thing. However, a situation had arisen at the Human Rights Commission, under which Pakistan had to yield to the pressures of Iran, China, and 15 other friendly countries. It had become clear many days ago that about 40 or more of the 53-member commission did not intend to vote on the resolution and hardly 10-12 members could have agreed to vote. It was expected that some seven to eight members would vote in favor of the resolution. Hence, even though the resolution would have been adopted with a slight majority, it would not have exerted much moral influence and pressure and India could have refused to respect it.

Opinions may vary on the method now adopted by the friendly countries and it can be said that Pakistan should not have deferred the resolution under any circumstances. The chairman of the Kashmir Committee and several opposition leaders have stated the same thing. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had also said that the resolution was not a game of statistics but a matter of principle and even if we were left alone, we would not refrain from supporting the cause of the Kashmiris. The decision to defer the resolution, obviously, seems to be contrary to this commitment, but, if viewed closely, it would not be appropriate to jump to the above conclusion. Pakistan has once again declared its intention to continue to fight for the cause of the Kashmiris and the foreign minister has stated in no uncertain terms that Pakistan will raise its voice in support of the Kashmiris at all international forums. He has also said that our resolution will always hang like a sword over India's head and we will be able to present it again at the UN General Assembly or the UN Human Rights Commission session. Thus, to assume that by deferring the resolution Pakistan has withdrawn its support to the Kashmiris will be totally erroneous and incomprehensible logic.

The foreign minister's assertion that by tabling the resolution Pakistan has realized many of its objectives is correct to a great extent. This was not a mean achievement, as the BBC has said that after a gap of 29 years Pakistan has raised the Kashmir issue at every international forum. It is also true that during the debate on the resolution, the Kashmir dispute had become the focus of the world's attention. The member-countries, which had

decided to abstain from the voting, also condemned India's action in occupied Kashmir. By tabling the resolution, Pakistan has also belied the Indian claim that the Kashmir dispute is a bilateral problem and that the Simla agreement does not empower Pakistan to raise the issue at any international forum. Pakistan has proved this stand as being completely wrong. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had to admit that most of the world nations were not paying heed to India's stand and were paying greater attention to what he called "irrelevant issues" like the human rights. The Indian leader also admitted that Pakistan appears to be a champion of human rights, while India is standing in the dock as a criminal in the court of international opinion. Narasimha Rao's confessions make it clear that Pakistan has achieved considerable success in projecting the Kashmir issue at the international level.

One of the main clauses of the formula, under which Pakistan has deferred its resolution, is that a delegation of the member-countries of the Islamic Conference Organization will be allowed to visit Kashmir. In addition, other agencies like the Amnesty International and Red Cross will also enjoy the right to send their delegations to Kashmir. Earlier, two major delegations have already toured occupied Kashmir and 10 India-based foreign ambassadors are currently visiting the territory. That shows that India has been forced to open up Kashmir to international observers, which, in fact, was one of the major objectives of Pakistan. India has also promised to certain friendly countries to reduce its troops in occupied Kashmir and to improve the human rights situation there. However, India's past record has not been encouraging, as rightly suggested by Pakistani delegate Ahmad Kamal that whenever India comes under pressure, it makes certain promises, but when that pressure is removed, it deviates from its commitments. Nonetheless, it would not be that easy for India now to breach its promises because the entire world is keeping an eye on the situation in Kashmir. Therefore, to construe that Pakistan has deferred its resolution without achieving anything would be incorrect. The Kashmiris themselves and the Pakistanis have to wage a prolonged struggle to liberate the Kashmiris from Indian subjugation. One of the stages of this long struggle was to table the resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission. It has yielded some results and much success has been achieved in making the international public realize the importance of the Kashmir problem. This holy war and the struggle are still continuing and will continue in future. Pakistan will continue its efforts to help the 12.5 million Kashmiris achieve their right to self-determination. The tabling of the resolution was a kind of war on the Kashmir front, but the war is still continuing and we will certainly be crowned with success, and the Kashmiri people will finally emerge victorious.

Paper Urges U.S. To Lift Pressler Amendment

BK1303132794 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 11 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Campaign Against the Pressler Amendment"]

[Text] A meeting held at the Prime Minister House the other day reviewed all important aspects of Pakistan-U.S. relations. It was attended by Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto; Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan; and Dr. Maliha Lodhi, Pakistani ambassador to the United States. The Pakistani ambassador gave details of her meetings with President Clinton and other U.S. authorities and said that she has been apprising the U.S. circles of Pakistan's position on the Pressler Amendment and expressed the hope that the warmth in relations between the two countries will be visible again. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto expressed the confidence that Pakistan will be able to convince the United States that the Pressler Amendment is a discriminatory law and that it failed to serve the purpose of nuclear nonproliferation in the region.

The Pressler Amendment is applicable only to Pakistan. Consequently, the United States has suspended economic and military aid to Pakistan, thereby creating a very difficult situation for this country. Pakistan very courageously endured the situation and made it clear to the United States that as far as nuclear nonproliferation is concerned, Pakistan has never disagreed with it. However, it set only one condition: that India should sign the treaty first.

Pakistan presented a number of proposals on keeping South Asia a nuclear-free zone, but India has consistently rejected these proposals. The United States has started to realize that Pakistan is interested not in manufacturing the nuclear weapon but in nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This is why the Pakistani leadership is expressing the confidence that the United States will be convinced that the Pressler Amendment is a discriminatory law.

A report says that Senator Larry Pressler has stressed that before making any changes in the Pressler Amendment, it should be ensured that President Clinton verifies that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear weapon. Larry Pressler argues that if the United States shows leniency in its attitude toward nuclear nonproliferation, then the countries that have acquired nuclear capability, including North Korea, will be encouraged to carry out a nuclear explosion. Larry Pressler's opinion cannot be taken as the last word. The U.S. Administration should keep the facts in view and avoid creating difficulties for a friendly country only on the basis of speculations.